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# MAGLEANS

2006  
CANADA'S  
MAGAZINE  
OF THE  
YEAR

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# 'Kudos for a cover that dares readers to ignore the eyes of a child living through a slaughter'



## 'THE KILLING MUST STOP'

**HUMAN NATURE** anguishing. At the sight of a road accident, drivers slow down to catch a glimpse of the wreckage. Yet people instinctively avert their eyes as a tragedy unfolds. As you say, the genocide in Darfur has been raging for three years and the world's leaders still have their heads in the sand. Kudos for publishing a cover that dares readers to ignore the innocent eyes of a child living through this slaughter ("Look away," *COVER*, Dec. 11). My organization is on the ground in Darfur providing humanitarian assistance. The situation is beyond description. The killing must stop. Abdullahi Ahmed, a senior writer at *Al Jazeera*, reports, had his eyes gouged out with a bayonet. Government leaders around the globe still have their, and we must force them open. **Rosemary McCorrey**, President and CEO, *Forney Partners*, Milan, Toronto

DARFUR is just the latest in a long line of injustices in the world. The UN stood by and watched the tragedy in Rwanda, and Senegal. And Liberia. Even if the UN did have the will or the ability to end the violence, some country with a stake would put up roadblocks to prevent any positive action. Maybe those who are protesting the injustice of the West should put together their own army and go help the people of Darfur. **Alan McKinnon**, Colwyn, Ont.

YOUR ARTICLE proves that UN stands for Unleashed Nations. Maybe it's moved to head quarters to Darfur; the refugees would get some action. **E.J. Adams**, Regina

WHEN HE SAW the cover, any sane year old son started asking questions. I gave him a not too graphic rundown of the atrocities going on in Darfur and Chad. His response was, "We have to help them." Canadians have to go there and help them. I wonder whether we, as members of a so-called civilized Western society, have the right-age group running our country. **Sheila Wong**, Downsview, Ont.

AS A STUDENT who has been following the Darfur conflict since the beginning, all I can say is, it looks as if so much better to know that this family getting the attention

does not mean from a magazine like yours. Out here, it has been especially surprising to see just how little people are doing to stop it. Being able to afford to take any sort of action is limited, but I have signed every petition and told every person I could find, even going so far as to help organize a small fundraiser in Regina. I am begging your readers to donate to one of the various groups who are taking action on the Darfur issue to us speak. The end to this slaughter is long past due. **Joshua Wilson**, Lake Abna, Sask.



IT IS WONDERFUL to see a story about Darfur. I am a Grade 10 teacher and my class has become obsessed with helping the people who are living in the refugee camps. They are attempting to raise \$1,000 and have invited an individual from the Red Cross, who has just returned from Sudan, to speak to the school. They have even bought an iPod Nano and are ready to raffish off school for it. I am so proud of these kids; they have become informed and they are determined to help. Watch out for a two-year or a mission! **Colleen McConnell**, Hamilton

HOW ICONIC that your story on the genocide in Darfur and Chad should be accompanied by a supplement with some 10 pages of glossy, bizarre advertising for wine, fish, sex, consumer electronics, appliances, and finally a bottle of cognac. I wonder if it is the only Maclean's reader who feels this way. **James**, more than a little disappointed

from the reality faced by the people of Darfur. I, for one, will be sure to write my MP about this incident in time—right after I go shopping. **Thomas Robinson**, Toronto

## THE CALL OF THE WILD

THE BEST PARTS of Maclean's are the little asides in boxes scattered through the pages. "Drink, disorderly and arrested" (Main vs. autism, Dec. 11) is a real winner when you consider I'm European and we actually choose who have? I didn't for my first four decades. **Heather Phillips**, Sooke, B.C.

## HOME—NOT ALONE

THANK YOU for featuring Don Shoon, the homeowner who may be charged because he peacefully resisted a teenage intruder in his basement in the dark (Features, Dec. 11). The fact that there is even a debate with regards to the legality of Shoon's actions is absolutely ludicrous. This one must justify taking any means necessary to ensure the safeguarding of his family and home is a testament to the backwardness of our liberal-minded legal system. Shoon's lack of remorse is the right approach, in fact, and if applicable, all governments have told defence lawyers in Canada: show no pity for the victimized. **Igor Perovic**, Toronto

I APPRAISED the instant action of Don Shoon. The priority in such a situation, should be to protect your family. I am a father of two young children and place the protection of my wife and kids over anyone found lurking in my basement or anywhere on my property. As far as the police investigating the case, I think they should have started by asking for formal statements from the Shoons, and charging the person in the basement. How long will Shoon have to wait and wonder if the police will end up at his door charging him with protecting his family? **Wayne Briggs**, Bradford, Ont.

## HARPER'S NATION

WHEN SENATOR HARPER unexpectedly and unceremoniously announced he would leave a resolution in the House of Commons that "the Québécois form a nation within a united Canada" ("Harper and the N word," National, Dec. 11), he opened up a wiggly can of worms. This was the madmen's, knee-jerk reaction

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# Now playing: The Parisian Candidate



PAUL WELLS

Jude in...  
**Interior:** *Surrealism, the mistress of Canada's leader of the Opposition. Poking cracks are everywhere, even in overall curly horns back and forth. Stéphane Dion enters, leading his dog Agnes.*  
**Dion:** "Well, here we are, almost crowded in after only a few weeks as leader of the Liberal Party of Canada!"

*There is a knock at the door.*  
**Dion:** "Who could that be?"  
*Dion opens the door. The French Ambler under enters, a manning figure in a black cape, who looks in odd resemblance to Agnes Lutzburg.*

**French Amblermodor:** "Would you like to play tea cards, Monsieur Dion?"  
**French Amblermodor begins dragging a deck of cards. He pulls out one in particular—the red queen. Dion is instantly hypnotized.**

**French Amblermodor:** "Ah, I see your teaming will work! You are standing in remarkably few minutes, aren't you?"

**French Amblermodor and Dion:** *Car to Paris, 20 years ago. We are in the main lecture hall at the Institut d'Etudes politiques. Dion's alma mater in the French board. A young Dion sits in the first row, wearing a black beret and cradling a baguette of French bread.*

**For Dion:** *Through Dion's eyes we see what appears to be a meeting of the Paris Historical Society. He looks, and the men in dinner discussing hydraulic Jude, not Agnes they are men in black berets, cradling baguettes of French bread. We see this is really a gathering of the French Secret Police. The first man to speak is Inspector Clooney.*

**Clooney:** *And so we come to our most important part of Operation Devoted Loyalty. My remarks, you have been training for this for last 10 years to return to your country and take your own. Will you be faithful servants of the République?*

**Dion and other chameleon (ambler) Sir, please!**  
**Clooney:** "Will you run the productivity of your target countries will needless bureaucracy and snooty service in our clubs and restaurants?"  
**Dion and other chameleon Sir, yes sir!**  
**Clooney (yawn-hug):** "Can you?"  
**Dion and the other recruits leap up and perform a perfect Parisian chameleon dance. Clooney smiles with delight. The recruits**

**Argentine and make their banking system collapse! Meanwhile!...**  
**Meanwhile stands.**  
**Clooney:** *Meanwhile, you will destroy Australia's restaurant industry with candle-wielding, serious and ridiculously soft and gentle! Good!*  
**Good, noticeably older than the other recruits, stands.**  
**Clooney:** *Good, you will win a case situation for the European Union to con-*



'You will cripple zeir country wit' needless bureaucracy and snooty service in zeir cafés'

*return to their seats, a bit breathless.*

**Clooney:** *Very good, my young sir! Dion! You have surpassed your training. You will soon return to your countries and, under the gaze of your dual chameleons, you will soon bring France's international enemies to their knees! But first... one final test! Monsieur Dion!*

**Dion leaps to attention.**  
**Clooney:** *Monsieur Dion! I need to know how your loyalty is 100 per cent wet! See République! You will prove it to me now. I want you to go over to Monsieur Lutzburg here and... and... Jerry here a study was because we are cooking in 'n' application!*  
**Dion (horrified):** *But it is too cruel!*

**Clooney:** *Do it!*  
**Dion:** *Run, run, run, as if fighting internal demons in Lutzburg's dark. Dion looks over, looks at a document, then runs it headlong over his shoulder. Lutzburg screams. Dion is silent.*

**Clooney:** *Excellent! You will be our finest agent. You will cripple your target country with pointless rules and regulations. Will your associates... Rousseau!...*

**Rousseau stands.**  
**Clooney:** *Rousseau, you will move to*

*plot to kill being a 'bill' century of European progress, something to a bill! Dion!*

**Dion:** *Must to conclusion, adjusting the French bread baguette under his arm.*

**Clooney:** *You're in for most difficult task. You will return to Canada. To win our trust, you will defeat me as president. You will run to take over our national governing party. You will have a speech. The speech at which I'll be least trusting speech I've ever read. It's been worked on for over eight years. When your microphone is on off, my will flash sympathy for you, and each guest take for not bring to listen to you any more, not my will every you up into Opposition will powers are make martial law seen. The strategy! And when you're done, see, and you win are elections soon after...*

**Dion:** *I implement my environmental policy!*

**Clooney:** *Brady! Brady! Zeir Canadian, any will not know what his name! For the glory of France, gentlemen!*

**Dion and other recruits (yawn, in accents):** *For the glory of France! W*

ON THE WEB For more Paul Wells, visit his blog at [www.madness.ca/paulwells](http://www.madness.ca/paulwells)

# Praise the Lord, pass the buck: We didn't invent this



ANDREW POTTER

The holiday season is upon us, that time of year when North Americans indulge their two most potent obsessions, 1) shopping, and 2) complaining about shopping. These are the two sides of the modern conscience, with the devil of materialism whispering in one ear, the spiritual-minded angel in the other. This Janus-faced attitude toward buying stuff is, of course, exacerbated by the seemingly contradictory pressures of Christmas. On the one hand, it is supposed to be a quiet time for religious observance, for charity and for family. On the other, it is also traditionally a time for gift-giving, which, for most people, involves shopping.

Yet Christmas is not the cause of the problem, and worrying about the excessive consumerism of our culture is not just a familiar refrain, it is the background symphony which the various melodies of our lives play out. We all love to shop, but hey, do we feel guilty about it, perpetually lamenting the loss of spirituality, community and simpler pleasures. But instead of worrying about the deficit of the spirit by the forces of commerce, we might consider the possibility that this excessive consumerism is a natural outgrowth of not too little religiosity, but too much.

Consider the case of Coca-Cola. As the story goes, Coke co-opted the figure of Saint Nicholas in the 1930s, in an attempt to boost lullaby winter sales. It gave us the famous figure of Santa Claus, a fat old man trotting out in corporate costumes, shoving seasonal soft-chugging Coke or giving it out as a gift.

This is, of course, an urban legend. The red-and-white, jolly old elf depicted as Santa had been standardized in the culture long before Coca-Cola came along, but every year warm fuzzies outflow from the legend on anyway, as a convenient shorthand for the way Christmas has been co-opted and branded

by commercial interests. Unfortunately, this only sustains the greater myth that the religious and the commercial sides of the holiday are at odds with one another, when in fact they represent different aspects of the same spiritual desire.

What consumers most efforts to come to grips with our consumer culture is a sense of lack of historical awareness.

The popular wisdom is that the marketing up of consumption and the over-tightening of modern society is a creature of the mass society that arose after the Second World War. Consumerism, the argument goes, is the bastard offspring of wartime technologies of mass production and new forms of broadcast propaganda. The resulting peace dividend was a surplus of household consumer goods, the demand for which was inflated in the public through advertising.



## Popular wisdom says our consumer culture arose in the '50s. That's off by 200 years.

off by about 500 years. Consumerism is actually as old as the modern world, appearing as early as 15th-century England just as the Industrial Revolution was getting two gears. The reign of George III was pronounced by certain fashion fixations, of a speed and intensity that would intimidate current marketing campaigns. People wore the popular colour for linen in 1773, but within a couple of years the trend was for white with pink trim. In 1776, all the cool kids were wearing "Cochon de Noirets," but less than a year later the leading fashionistas had moved on to dove grey. The turnover in shoe styles was even more rapid, with toes going from pointed to round to square-toed, and back again, in a relentless cycle of fashion and obsolescence that we would all find utterly familiar.

More importantly, this new consumer culture was not strictly, or even primarily, driven by the upper classes. It was a thoroughly middle-class phenomenon, arising from the desires of a commercial class of Protestants who saw the ability to take emotional pleasure in beauty, including beautiful things, as a sign of virtue. This attitude eventually influenced both the Romantic and Bohemian movements, groups for whom fashion was clearly not about the pursuit of shallow pleasures. Just the opposite: for these "Romantic Consumers," it was part of a spiritual understanding of material

goods as an integral part of personal renewal and self-expression.

Today, we are all romantic consumers. Think about it: does anyone ever confess to being a shallow materialist? Of course not. As the advertising critic James Twitchell puts it, the problem is that we are not materialistic enough. They truly were materialists, in and

ing and lifestyle advertising would not work. We would buy things because of their natural properties, based on a cold-blooded consideration of whether they offered quality and value for the money. But that isn't how we shop. Instead, when we hit the stores we are seduced by the halo of messages that shroud every product. Nike is not selling shoes, it is selling personal achievement. Apple is not selling music players, it is selling rebellious freedom, and Starbucks isn't selling coffee, it is selling bohemian virtue. In a more seasonal vein, note that a set of four St. Nick napkins from Williams-Sonoma will set you back \$50 not because they are woven on 19th-century looms, but because they evoke the simple authenticity of Christmas past.

This sort of marketing succeeds because it often has the same sort of spiritual vacuum as religion does, and it is no coincidence that the earliest marketing professionals in the United States were evangelical Christians. They believe that Christmas has become so commercialized, the question we should be asking ourselves is not only materialists has replaced spiritualism. Rather, it is why so many of us now prefer the conditions of the mall to those of the church. ■

ON THE WEB: For more Andrew Potter visit his blog at [www.macleans.ca/andrewpotter](http://www.macleans.ca/andrewpotter)



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## 'In the game of hockey, in my opinion, the leaders in the dressing room are more important than the coach'

KEN HITCHCOCK TALKS TO KENNETH WHYTE ABOUT DYNAMICS IN THE DRESSING ROOM, LEADERSHIP AND MAKING SACRIFICES

*Edmonton loves Ken Hitchcock as one of the National Hockey League's premier coaches. He entered the current season with a 100th winning percentage, tops among his contemporaries with at least five years' service. Currently with the Columbus Blue Jackets, Hitchcock coached the Dallas Stars to a Stanley Cup victory in 1996-1999.*

**Q** You wouldn't have any storylines about this, but you were the first person (aside from a professional journalist) when I worked for the *Star* and

Mark News

**A:** Holy shit! Really? How long ago was that?

**Q:** About 15 years.

**A:** I remember! That was when I was coaching midges. You were there when we went to the Cup.

**Q:** What's the biggest difference between coaching those kids and the Columbus Blue Jackets?

**A:** Well, when I was coaching midges, I was maybe four or five years older than the players. So there was this emotional connection. I'd be going through the same thing they were every day, up and down. I really felt their pain, emotionally. Now, with this team today, it's also a very young team, and it soon realizes I'm like I'm coaching it and get or junior hockey again, but I can stand back and say, "This is where they're at, and this is where

I need them to go." Also, when I coached in midges, the only team that I could follow closely was the Edmonton Oilers, and so everything we did was to play their way. It was during their heyday and the whole game was based on offence, full-court pressure, pushing your defences all the time. And that's the way I coached right up until '96.

**Q:** What happened in '96?

**A:** I went to Dallas to head coach and we didn't have the fast speed to play the way I was used to playing. I tried to put in my system and we got behind some games. It means we just got killed. And so in the summer of '96, I sat down with Bob Gueney, the general manager, and we reflected on how they played, and I learned a new way to coach. I learned the reality of the word pressure, but also position play became really, really important. I was lucky—Gueney was a great teacher. I've had two general managers, Gueney in Dallas and Bob Clarke at my last job in Philadelphia, and both guys have taught me a ton. Bob knows the kind of character it took to win and the courage that it took to win. He was really, really good at the emotional part of the game.

**Q:** What do you mean by that?

**A:** Well, just that Charlie's got this unbelievable feel for who's controlling the emotional level of the game. He would say, that guy had an impact in the game and it was things I didn't even think about. His reads from winning so many games as a player and then as a manager were amazing.

**Q:** You're a coach, not a general manager, which means you have to manage the talent the GM acquires. Can that be difficult, frustrating?

**A:** No, it isn't, providing there's a trust there. Certain coaches need certain players. There's certain guys that can be successful for certain coaches and there's certain players that can't be. For me, I've always been a big believer in that you can never have enough unsuspicious players, and if you have more unsuspicious players than the other team you're going to win. I've learned that no matter what a player's skill level is, if there isn't a competitive fire inside the player, when it gets down to the end of the day he's going to get pushed out of the game.

**Q:** I don't want to dwell on negatives, but it's part of your job to motivate players and get them to buy into a team concept. Sometimes it stops working, they stop playing for you. How do things go wrong?

**A:** What you find out, if you look at it closely, it's the chemistry inside the locker room. As a coach, your job is to create a level of sacrifice as high as you can, because what I'm asking those players to do is really difficult. And for me, that's the challenge that the coach faces, and when you can't get the players to meet that challenge, that's when a division starts inside the locker room, because the players that are doing it start to get disappointed in the players that

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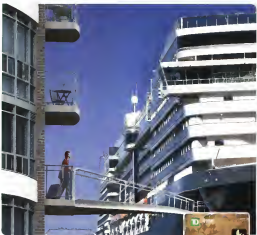
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aren't doing it, you get a wedge, and the train starts to lose energy, and so you end up bearing the brunt of it. That's why, in the game of hockey, in my opinion, the leader in the dress line is not an easy position to handle, and it

**Q** And if the players are discussing team strategy, isn't that a tactical, and the GM assumes the players, why does the coach lose the job when the chemistry goes bad?

**A:** I know what you're saying, but when you look at successful organizations—and Gannett and Clarke and I had a lot of success together—it's because of the sense of co-operation between the clutch and the strength they're on the same page. They work together.

**C:** David, there's no bad and there's five sec-

**A:** Yeah, that's true. But when a coach has success and then all of a sudden he's losing, at that point you look deeper and it's usually been a change on the leadership side inside the locker room. He's created a successful working environment, and then all of a sudden the same players—or some of them—aren't playing the same way. It's because the leadership has changed, the direction of the hockey club has changed inside the room. Both teams that I've led in the recent change dramatically, mostly through retirement and injuries—not very often through trades—but it's crucial.

**Q:** You've obviously studied the old Gferr closely. What kind of chemistry did rice have?

At Glenview, the Olen's GM, created an atmosphere where the players were comfortable being criticized by coaches and managers, they were comfortable looking in the mirror, and they were really comfortable talking each other madly in the fifth, sixth and seventh, and some of the mistakes that went on in these players was rough. Even that's the atmosphere, when they were all friends and they could say anything to each other and there were no consequences. They created a walking environment that was tremendous. The 1st that Gary taught, that was the same thing in Missouri that went on. There was no walking on eggshells, you could say anything you wanted.

**Q: So you didn't every team do it?**  
 Antecum: The players aren't comfortable with each other doing that. Sometimes it takes years, sometimes it takes special people, a superstar like LeBron to get the lops over done. I know in Philadelphia, when I first went there in '02, the players weren't comfortable saying things to each other. They weren't, but over time they got that way and that's why we were successful, because they got comfortable doing it.

**Q.** When you talk about leadership as the driving force and that old Oilers team, I think of Mark Messier.

A. He's a great, great leader. He can get the chase inside the locker room. There's been other players like that—Steve Herman, Red Proctor for us in Philadelphia, Adam Fournier here in California. I had guys like Carbo in me, Keene, Stradford, Ludwig in Dallas. In me, in Dallas everyone talked about Steve Hall and Mike Modano, and those guys are great players, they're great players, but the core group of guys like Mike Keene and Greg Ludwig and Jon Mower and Brian Stradford, those were the players that can go to the chase.

Q: By that you mean they keep the energy level high, the consciousness high?

A: They kept the continentals high, the wings high, the sacrifice high. They never let up. I remember one time in Dallas, four or five of them came into the coach's office in the year we won the Cup, and they said, "Rafael, we got it. You can now back off." And they said that to me, because they were, for the last two or three years, much more demanding on themselves than I could ever be.

**Q.** When you say they've got to make sacrifice, what's the nature of the sacrifice?

**A** blocking shot, it hurts playing physical, it hurts starting and stopping and starting defensively, that's hard, playing constant hockey period after period, shift after shift, that's hard playing when you don't feel well, playing when you're banged up, those are hard things to do. It's more now

**Q:** I read once you said that you just like coaching and you always wanted to be coaching at any level, it didn't really matter. What's the attraction?

Will like tracing, I like building. To me, I don't wear the Stanley Cup rings or anything because to me the building of the team is the heart part. I love building teams, and I love the strategy that goes with building teams. I like building the *curriculum* and the *chemistry*.

Q: Don't waste teachers' efforts!  
 A: I don't know I haven't been in...

Q: You've been in a lot of locker rooms.  
A: But I don't know. I don't know that.

But I know that the toughest thing for a coach to do is open up himself. It's very difficult. But in this day and age, because the players are so smart, they know the game inside and out, they're so well-taught when they're younger, they need you to be straightforward as to what you expect. The guessing game and the strategy of examination and lower-

...but on-edge, it's not there anymore. You've got to be really careful so they can be con-

**Q:** Did you play hockey growing up in Edmonton?

As I played till I was 17, and then I was playing competitive golf at that time and the two seasons started to cross over.

**Q.** Tell me about your father. Was he a lucky fan?

At My discomfited—he died when I was 14—since the day I can remember. He coached minor hockey in Edmonton. He and some buddies built the arena, or the outdoor rink at the Otsewa community league. All I remember of my dad was every winter he'd coach. He never coached alone, but he coached and, yet, he coached juveniles. I remember one year he coached two teams when we were just starting up in Otsewa.

Q: His death must have been a pretty big deal.  
A: Yeah, it was huge. That kind of wave

off on my own. I don't want to call it rebel without a cause, but I was on the loose for a long time. And that's why I'm so grateful.



**'I just know that the toughest thing for a coach to do is open himself up. It's very difficult.'**

For hockey, because it kind of brought back some discipline, and brought back some organization to my life. Between working at United Cycle in Edmonton, which started to organize my day, finally, and then the chance to coach in hockey—it brought back the fun and discipline to my life, and that's why I'm really excited.

**Q** What did you mean when you said, as I've seen you say in some of the interviews, that you've created a lot of stress for yourself?

**A** Well, I had this dog-eat-dog, drive 100 miles an hour, run-on-all-cups-of-coffee

[illegible]

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and don't have attitude. I really didn't care. I'm not saying it was a death wish, but it was really, really reckless. My father was the disciplinarian—in a good way. He kept me on a tight leash. I went from playing sports a year at age 13 to 14 to basically doing nothing after this girl two years later. And I gained a lot of weight because I didn't have any discipline, and I had this angry attitude. And there was a whole crew of us, and we all were at the girl's house together, and we run fast and hard, and we did a lot of things that probably right now we'd put close our eyes and pretend they didn't happen, but they did!

**Q** What's the hardest thing about motivating players today? How much is the money a factor?

**Q** As I don't find it a factor at all. I find the players that make more money, they're the easiest guys in the world to negotiate. They're so self-motivated it's scary.

[illegible]

**Q:** Where else have you studied at? Who else have you read?

As I've read about World War II, now I've read a lot on World War I. Now I've read more of books on corporate leadership, the combination of the sports leadership/corporate leadership side of things. I go to seminars, corporate seminars, I talk to business people, just trying to learn. I find, for me, that it's less factor than the minute I stop learning is when I'm going to get stale, so I try to learn all the time.

**Q** Of the historical figures you've read about, who have you learned most from?

As I would say Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Sherman.

Q. Why is Robert E. Lee dead?

At Because he did a lot with very little, and he was the first strategist of how he could get more from less, how he could divide and conquer. He had a lot of faults and he was open about those faults, and the people that worked for him and followed him knew that and they followed him still. That stuff fascinated me. To me, Shikasta—who was the right arm of Genghis—he knew the brutality of conflict, and that's why he was in good in his way, because he prepared his men for it.

Q: What's the best player you've seen?  
A: Chevrolet's Clemons. To me he's a spe-

tal player. He's just in the world all by himself, because he's the only player who can use all the other nine or 10 players on the ice. He's the only guy in the world I see who can do that.

**Q:** Is there anyone you think who really has the potential to be at that level?

A. In the league right now? Sidney Crosby.  
Q. He's for real?

As for the physical side of things, he's got footballer-like leg strength, and he's got a competitive drive that's beyond belief. He's a special player. He's going to be one of those players that mean more to the coach on the

On the way home a half-century of hookups?

Q: You're a sports addict. What's your favorite sport to watch?  
A: Yeah, but there's a type mistake in that question. I mean, I love watching golf. I love playing golf. I love hitting golf balls. I love watching other sports, especially tennis sports. I love the history of North America. I'm learning more and more about Canada now, finally. I'm just starting to learn about the prime ministers. I'm just learning about the impact of Ottawa, learning about Macleod and Carver and Prins.

**Q** So you're moving a bit out of military history into political history.

**A** Yeah, just more of the history of Canada. I want to learn about the history of what inside Canada, such a great country. I lived in Philadelphia, which was once the capital of the United States, but what really intrigued me was when I went to the Confederation Center and saw the history of the United States. I had no idea what it was, because I was like dead inside. The way the United States became the United States, I was dead inside in the timeline, it seemed to think, "I might be dead when on Canada," which I was. So I started—when I go back to Canadian cities I go into Chapter or not a book for a small read.

Q: Where does the love of reading come from?  
A: To me, that's knowledge. I don't want

to ever stop learning. That's the drive for me, learning. ■

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me. And so to measure that from me, I'd be sad," Dean told TVOntario. Over the radio, though, he added that dismissing a criticism of Fraser "would take a liability for our sensibility," he would say "no" to Fraser.

Obviously no one seriously doubts Stephen Dean's commitment to Canada. And most issues, there will be no conflict, real or imagined, caused by dual nationality. Recognizing that fact, Ottawa has expressly permitted dual citizenship since 1977. And like it or not, there is probably no practical way of tanning the duck back, even if, somehow, a national consensus was reached that it was desirable to do so. The truth is, though, that we usually don't even know how many dual citizens there are living in Canada and how many dual citizens are living overseas. For sure, the numbers are in the millions. And unlike the Americans, who require all of their citizens, no matter where they live, to file an income tax return every year, we do not keep

those, that is among the massive weaknesses of citizenship: then, written and oral data with no tax whatsoever to this country except a passport. At the same time, many of the ex-citizens from Lebanon had worked and lived and paid taxes in this country. Some even rose to old-age pensions after a lifetime of employment in Canada. Were their claims for assistance any more meritorious than those with barely any connection to Canada?

The Lebanese-inactive provided all sorts of hand-wringing in Canada. Soon enough, the government announced that dual citizenship was understood and an open-agency study was announced setting clear policy guidelines for Canadian political involvement in other countries. This was a good idea. The government, we know that our citizenship is porous. We also know that one of our great contributions to the world is our diversity. So the consequences of burying our head in the sand about the risks and rewards that

Affairs and the Department of Justice were all to be around the table, and a report was produced by the end of the year. That document was placed on shelves, however, in late September 2006 when the government, "listening on the promises of Citizenship," announced millions in spending cuts. Twenty million dollars were used from handling "a regional new citizenship act." Perhaps the government was backing away from a subject that remains a sensitive one: the NDP has called upon the government to abandon its move because it was making dual nationals "nervous." NDP Citizenship critic Bill Blaney told the Globe and Mail recently that many immigrants chose Canada "because we have dual citizenship." This comment seems strange enough for a review of the rules—after all, in the old days, people came to Canada for freedom and opportunity, not because here they could have their cake and eat it too.

Learning aside the legal limits for doing so—well, the one visible Charter challenge that would result if Ottawa decided to revert to the previous *status quo* and require dual nationality, who would the benefits be? And what do we do about all these countries in the world that do not allow their citizens to give up their citizenship? As Maher Arar would attest, when he became a Canadian he could not have renounced his Syrian citizenship even if he had wanted to, which he probably did. Whenever the approach, a reflexive reaction to our Middle East crisis one summer will not lead to better citizenship policy.

At the same time, the problem is not going to go away: it is not just one example, there are an estimated 100,000 Canadian passport holders reside in Hong Kong. One cannot even begin to imagine how the Canadian government, woefully short of military assets at home and with absolutely none in that region, would respond to a crisis there with those citizens. Like the Canadians in Beirut, diminished assistance—a problem that would be made worse by the fact that China does not recognize dual nationality and would have no interest whatsoever in any Canadian intervention on our citizens' behalf if, for example, we broke out in the streets of Taiwan or Hong Kong's free market came under Communist attack. The potential for conflict is enormous.

The very value of citizenship means that there are no easy solutions. But, for instance, requires its citizens to formally apply to renounce the others if they have been living away for more than six years. If we had that rule, Michael Ignatieff would have had to get government permission to return home to launch his leadership bid for the Liberals. Clearly, we need to take the time to think

about the massive meaning of citizenship. Canadians are rightly skeptical of imperial ambitions, but it might be the right vehicle to help establish Canadian citizenship for a 21st-century world.

And while a careful, sober review of dual citizenship is a good idea, it should not mean throwing out the baby with the bathwater. Canada should always will to accommodate and welcoming to newcomers. One must take time to ponder that. One hopes that at the end of the day, Canadian citizenship really has to do with legalizations than with rules. This is an increasingly global world. The more Canadians we have who are only in and out of the country, by and in a globalized world, the more we need to be vigilant about making their way in different cultures and societies. The better off we will be if they did not have to do so and probably never will be in Canada's national interest to mean citizenship. Almost two centuries in the world proves that citizenship, including the United States, when citizenship really does matter to most Americans. Accepting murderers and drug dealers like Golden State or Taliban warlords like Abdullahi Abdi, most Canadian citizens abroad are well placed to promote our values and our democratic institutions.

Larissa President Vito-Frereberg is a true expert. As a fifteen-year-old, Vito-Frereberg arrived here as a refugee from Soviet Latvia. She spent more than 19 years in Canada, becoming a Canadian at age 20, then a fully integrated into society and a recognized academic leader. At present in Latvia, she has been outspoken on social issues, moral values and democracy. Wrote most Canadians like her, here and overseas. The line is not that Vito-Frereberg was a dual national—after all, she became an outstanding Canadian. The issue is whether do we identify Canadian values and transmit them to native born and Canadians by choice. We clearly failed in the cases of Golden State and Abdullahi Abdi.

Many newcomers bring examples demonstrate that there is a lot of reason to believe we are failing to attract and retain the allegiance of Canadians, by birth and by choice, here at home. In some communities, far as single, voting in Canadian elections is actively discouraged. Why bother learning about the country, and actively participating with it, if you have another home to return to? Allowing our citizens to hold elected office in other sovereign nations is just the symptom of that problem—that some Canadians want to sit in the Italian parliament, or help rule and rebuild Somalia, or even live in Venezuela "ethnically cleansed" or wage jihad somewhere else shows that not enough of us are dedicated, first and foremost, to our coun-

try whose passport we carry around. We live in the National Day spirit, we are not on the surface. Clearly, however, it is a slippery slope, and Canadians need to appreciate that their citizenship is ending before their eyes.

The problem is not suggested and it won't be solved. For example, as the number of foreign affairs suggested, by some sort of dual citizenship act or, as the C.D. Howe Institute advocates, by a "passport tax," which even as Canadians pay more to obtain and renew their passports. In early November, Citizenship and Immigration Minister Marion Jodry told a House of Commons committee that the government was considering whether Canadian living abroad should be able to qualify for social programs when they return. "If we're in a situation where somebody's absent, we'll pay taxes but is going to be using our social programs down the road. I think Canada would struggle to do that," Jodry told the committee. Liberal MP Jean Karygiannis, periodically, immediately accused Jodry of hypocrisy: looking. However, what is really needed is more discussion, not less. There is, currently, a building of new post-inauguration

applications waiting processing while the government has increased its attention to increase immigrant quotas to a 21st-century. How then, now Canada has an integrated a reality of national importance, and that means doing, straight on, the challenges of dual nationality.

So the current Canadian government policy on Canadian citizenship is a problem because it realises that our dual citizenship, for some of us, Canada is not only an assumed reward but a moral necessity put it in hand. A failure to live in reality puts us to rest, lived with increasing people, many of them staying for a while before heading home, or going somewhere else. Maybe it's true that we all made an effort to turn that head into a permanent one—for everyone lucky enough to be able to call themselves a Canadian. ■

William Kaplan is a Toronto lawyer and a contributor to the journal of *Redesigning the Meaning and Future of Canadian Citizenship*, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1999. He most recent book is *A Secret Trust: Steve Cameron, Brian Mulroney and the Public Trust*, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2004.

WITHIN WEEKS of evacuation to Canada, some Lebanese Canadians were back in Beirut



## In the old days, people came to Canada for freedom and opportunity, not to have their cake and eat it too

ignoring rules on hypothetical Canadians.

What is now obvious is that holding a Canadian passport proved particularly beneficial to 15,000 Lebanese Canadians evacuated from Beirut last summer at the cost, to Canadian taxpayers, of about \$4 million. For some of these Canadian citizens, who had not lived in Canada for years, or find a Canadian income tax return, it was an all-expenses paid trip, not "home," but two safe haven in Canadian government expense. With a number of visas, 7,000 of these citizens were said to have returned home—to their real

home when that two values conflict—especially in an increasingly globalized world—potentially put at risk everything we value about Canada.

What if Canadians living abroad spent determining the outcome of Canadian elections the same way that Italian living abroad spent the outcome of a referendum? It was, as one critic put it, represented on without taxation and without responsibility to bear.

The Conservative government's ongoing review of dual citizenship means Citizenship and Immigration, Elections Canada, Foreign

Clearly, we need to take the time to think

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# Part kingmaker, part attack dog

**Liberal MP Mark Holland is a young politician running on adrenalin**

**BY JOHN GEORGE** • Before it fades into political fact, there's a final moment worth savouring from the convention that made Stéphane Dion the new Liberal leader. The cheering is over. The big hall at Montreal's Palais des Congrès is nearly empty. Among the stragglers in the hallway outside, Senator David Smith, 66, maestro of many winning Liberal campaigns, has this time a basket of Michael Ignatieff's dried leg, thoughtless toward the candidate. His perennially despondent, already younger cousin, his tie still neatly knotted, looking tired enough to go a couple more bellinis, catches Smith's eye. It's MP Mark Holland, 31, a key organizer for Gerard Kennedy, whose last sprawling throw of support to Dion won the convention's decisive moment. Holding out his hand, Holland offers a respectful, "Nice job, Senator." It is of course true. Holland who got the job done this time.

In the wake the torch is passed, out among the burst balloons and crumpled banners while the chairs are being stacked? There they are—two hard-core political animals, one they campaigned for Lester B. Pearson in '65, the other born in '74, the year Pierre Trudeau resigned his majority. If attention before the convention was lavished on Guelph-based figures like Smith, the focus has now shifted to an emerging generational possibility. Holland and the other ascendants MP's and Internet-savvy strategists who've rattled Dion and Kennedy. Not only did Holland play a pivotal convention role during that first weekend in December, he returned to Ottawa and, hardly passing ordinariness, took the lead in the Liberal attack that forced Giuliano Zaccardelli to resign as RCMP commissioner.

If few Canadians had heard of Holland before, a lot more recognize him now. He featured prominently in TV convention coverage, and clips of him sparring first with Zaccardelli and then with Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day over the Maher Arar affair established him as the Liberals' most pug-nacious performer those days. He works at it. For four days during the convention, he functioned as no more than three hours'

sleep—night, and then for four more days back on Parliament Hill he caught, at least, six hours a night during the Zaccardelli uproar. "I'm running on pure adrenaline now," he said in an interview last week. "At one point in the convention, I didn't sleep in over 36 hours. I was fasting and didn't realize it."



SO FAR, Holland has been defined not by poetry provocations, but by political skills.

How did it all feel? "It was the greatest experience of my professional life."

Holland isn't one of those politicians who themselves don't really believe in the Liberal, it always wanted to be in, and is now living his childhood dream. "I started reading Maclean's when I was in Grade 4 and decided I wanted to be a member of Parliament," he says. At 13, he volunteered to work for a candidate in an Ontario provincial election. His mother would drop him off at the campaign office after school. Growing up in Pickering, Ont., a suburb east of Toronto, politics remained his passion through his high school years. He inherited his mother's community-mindedness, though she was not a partisan, but his father was a lawyer who brought a courtrooms' hard debating style home and taught his son to argue. Holland's parents disowned when he was 11 as his only son, a painful for many experience that drew him closer to his only aunt, Sonnetta, who has worked on his campaign. "We learned to love ourselves and relationships in the process," he reflects. "I am who I am because of that, and because

my parents were, at the end of the day, very supportive on the other side of it."

Heading off to university, Holland was not cut out to be a typical student. In second year, while studying political science and history at the University of Toronto, home for school board trustee in Pickering. He lost. "I was crushed, devastated, humiliated, was never going to see my again," he recalls, laughing. "But I only lost by 100 votes." Not a wide enough margin to snuff out such burning ambition. While still at U of T, his girlfriend, Anahita O'Keefe, had their first child. (They are now married and went on to have two more children, now in school.) It was hardly the case-



HOLLAND'S going at Zaccardelli helped win the commissioner's resignation.

"party renewal," defined as a new sense that rank-and-file Liberals march more directly, and that the party must welcome new blood. Most veteran Liberal senators crowded around the losing beds of Michael Ignatieff and Bob Rae. "There's a new group of individuals coming in," Holland says, "and we're going to play a great role in the party, but that's tempered with moderate experience."

First elected MP for the Agincourt riding in 2004, Holland has a forceful style that makes it easy to forget he's still new to the job. His brazen questions when Zac-

cardelli settled twice before the House puts his safety concerns contributed directly to the RCMP commissioner's resignation, over inconsistencies about whether he knew that false information from the Maher Arar affair had influenced the U.S. decision to ship Arar to prison in Syria. On Sept. 28, Zaccardelli resigned. He knew the RCMP had established Arar as innocent back in 2004, but on Dec. 5, he said he found out only earlier this year. "I'm wondering," Holland asked him, "on which day did you picture yourself in this committee?" Zaccardelli's response—"I gave the best answers to the best knowledge that I had at the time"—sounded like, given he was speaking about knowledge of his own memory.

When Day, the minister responsible, appeared before the same committee before the same committee, Holland grilled him over reports that he had previously pressed for Zaccardelli to be forced out earlier, his implication. Day had refused for weeks that Zaccardelli's position was untenable, but Prime Minister Stephen Harper let the situation fester. "Did you push the Prime Minister for the commissioner to be released or fired?" Holland demanded. "Yes or no?" Day declined by denying Holland as a grandstanding "cupid crusader," whose "persona changes quite radically" when he's on camera. As Day left no doubt the club was personal, Holland kept up a diatribe of "yes or no?" and ended the exchange by declaring "I will not, absolutely not, throw softball questions to please you on the matter."

In an angry, defiant moment, it wasn't his, but not just. Politicians don't only go far on reputation as scapegoats, and Holland sees the need for a more balanced perspective. He says that while he's glad about the inquiry closer to Arar, "nobody who knows me personally would describe me as angry." Indeed, his provocations are not noticeably hot-blooded or obviously partisan. He's a veteran who is publishing a private memoir's bill to modernize the cruelty to animals law. He sees the environment as the biggest issue of the times.

So far, though, he's defined more by policy issues, but by political skills. Those he has offered up without conditions to his new leader. "The only thing I said to Stéphane that I want, my only ask," he says, "is that I be used in the way that he finds most helpful." That Holland can be extremely helpful, from the convention floor to the committee room, is no longer in doubt. But as a politician who, in the spirit of a few short days, played such a notable role in Dion's rise and Zaccardelli's fall, just helping out surely won't be enough for long. ■



STELMACH Everybody's second choice

# OKAY, NOW WHAT?

**Ed Stelmach has the keys to Canada's economic engine. The pressure is on.**

**BY JARON KUBRY** • This coming spring, workers in Calgary are set to break ground on the tallest office tower in Canada's booming West. Once built, the shimmering steel and glass structure will be a city that's come to dominate Alberta's economic and political landscape in recent years. At least that was the case until this month. Conveyors may still rule the oil patch, but on Dec. 5, a case far from front of Edmonton named Ed Stelmach overtook the leadership of the ruling Tories. Overnight, the opposite of legislative power shifted about 180 degrees to the north, to the village of Anderson (home to 485 people, and one large, Sherrill Klein).

The race to replace Ralph Klein as premier was supposed to usher in a new era for Alberta, but few were quite prepared for this. Awed in cash from oil and gas royalties, the province has conventionally with no plan for how to accommodate the legions of migrants flooding into its towns and cities. Rich Tory candidates boasted some sort of heavy road money to manage the boom. But none of the hopefuls was as energetic as Stelmach. He was the mayor, the honest former mayor with a wrench, who had somehow managed to

serve 11 years in cabinet without causing a ripple of controversy. In a leadership race that followed in rapid succession, there was rarely a trace of the snail under his finger-nails. And so, the dark horse labeled "everybody's second choice" really turned out to be the high-profile muck, Jim Dinning and Ted Martin. Now that Stelmach has seized the keys to Canada's economic engine, he's under a lot of pressure.

Until recently, the village of Andrew was best known as home to the "world's largest milked duck." Here, in the land of lovely roadside attractions, Andrew's massive flock of geese, the offspring of Ontario's giant geese, went of Weybridge's award-winning, call. Easter eggs and ran up the road from a town, and, supposedly, delicious, Andrew sausage marking the entrance to Mundare. The day after Stelmach won the leadership vote, the milked duck drove. Before long, Ms and Pa's Restaurant on Main Street began to look like a special day, as geese stopped from cable to table interviewing locals happily spinning tales of Stelmach's childhood, of his reign as country rose, and his knack for farming. "He got out of hog just before the market collapsed," says one man enthusiastically.

The Stelmach clan has called this area home since 1886, when his Ukrainian grandparents cleared a plot of land south of the village. An old house and yellow farmhouse still stands, though its front porch roof droops under the weight of snow. Stelmach, who married his high school sweetheart Marie and has four children, lives in a small white bungalow on a deer. It wasn't always his plan to stay in the farm, though.

As a young man, Stelmach, the youngest of five siblings, set off to study law at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. When his older brother Victor died in the early 1970s, Stelmach dropped out and returned to tend to the farm. He still keeps a couple dozen dairy cows. During one campaign speech, he thanked his brother for making them while he was on the road.

Stories like that have helped Stelmach rebuild his wholesome reputation, an image that becomes more on concrete with each telling. He's a scrapper in the Ukrainian Catholic church choir, lives his own farm, and runs up when he drinks his campaign volunteers. "It's not one of those backslapping politicians you sometimes see in rural politics," says Ken Chapman, a highly connected friend in Edmonton who worked on Stelmach's campaign. "But that's not a simple farmer. If you look at his life story, he's a man of great character and huge life experience."

Despite widely held perception that Stelmach doesn't play politics, he has carefully



## STELMACH REGULARLY HARKS BACK TO HIS RURAL ROOTS. HE KNOWS WHAT PLAYS WELL.

crafted his image. He regularly harks back to his rural roots, and knows what plays well with conservative Albertans. That was clear the night of the leadership vote in an Edmonton airport hangar. In an informal "pizza poll," delegates picked from each candidate's favorite toppings. Stelmach's "true like" beef and cheddar handily trumped Morton's ham and pepperoni and Dinning's pepperoni and mushrooms. No one dared put his name to the vegetarian pizza, which he neglected altogether.

After a stint as municipal politics in the 1980s, Stelmach ran for provincial office in 1991 when Klein came to power. Over the years, Stelmach has held several cabinet positions, shuffled to China and Hong Kong to promote Alberta's resources, and helped push through a plan to build ring roads around Edmonton and Calgary by turning to private financing. None of it left much of a mark on opponents. "I sat in legislative

session from Stelmach for five years while he was in cabinet, and he was so quiet he made me suspicious at all, good or bad," says Kevin Klatt, leader of the provincial Liberal party. "He was pretty much a zero entry."

Stelmach usually isn't a media star, either, unlike his predecessor Klein, a former reporter who knew how to weave a compelling yarn for journalists. At one point during the leadership campaign, Edmonton Journal columnist Graham Thomson asked Stelmach about his gut reaction to requests more value out of Alberta's oil sands. Stelmach's response lasted three minutes and 40 seconds. Thomson wrote, reacting to "the whole issue of water," something called "rural venture capital," and something called "rural development." A little more that will turn up the bloodstreams and be like the Man and strip all the cancer risks.

By the time he stood up for his first press conference last week, it was clear his handlers had coached him in the clear air of the sound bite. When a reporter asked Stelmach what he had to say to newly elected Liberal leader Stephen Harper and his environment



ANDREW, ALTA., comes into its own. The milk street and the giant milked duck (left) and the local diner. Residents spin tales of Stelmach's knack for farming. "He got out of hog just before the collapse."

minister, Stelmach quickly fired back "I'm going to tell them right off the bat that they have to be careful about the kind of policies they start articulating," he said. "Any damage to Alberta's economy is going to severely hurt Ottawa and the treasury as well."

That's not to say Stelmach is comfortable with the media. His office refused repeated requests for an interview, and last week when a Madden television photographer showed up his driveway to photograph the farmhouse, Stelmach showed up within minutes in a black sedan accompanied by a sheriff from the Alberta Solicitor General's office, who threatened to press trespassing charges, while Stelmach sat in the car talking on his cellphone.

But the constant demand of the press are nothing compared to the potentially crippling losses he faces as Alberta leader. The broke-down boom has shrunken Albertans' pay rolls, yet Alberta's infrastructure is buckling under the weight. At its current rate, the city of Calgary alone is hovering up 15,000 new accidents each year, putting pressure on roads, schools and hospitals.

Stelmach has had his first priority to deal with the same shortage of affordable housing. According to Chapman, more than 15 per cent of the runs in Calgary's homeless shelter are already employed but unable to find accommodation. The premier plans to form a task group to look at the issue, and has vowed to have a list of proposals ready within 45 days. He's also vowed to tackle the lack of skilled workers in Alberta. To do that, he wants to transfer more control over the province's immigration policies from Ottawa, similar to those powers enjoyed by Quebec.

In a case of déjà vu, Stelmach must also rein in Alberta's out of control spending, just as Klein did in his early years in power. Over the last five years, the province's spending has jumped 40 per cent, and rocketed

from more than 120 per cent over the last decade, according to the Calgary Chamber of Commerce. By some estimates, the province that led the way in fiscal responsibility in the 1970s is quickly falling back into profligacy. "If spending keeps increasing at this rate, this province will be running into a deficit within seven to eight years," says Ron Kaseb, an economics professor at the University of Calgary, "and that's even with oil and gas prices where they are now."

Stelmach has some options at his disposal. For one thing, he has pledged to meet the agreements signed with energy producers that allow companies to pay only one per cent in royalties during the seismic phase of projects. According to a study from the Permian Basin Institute, that slashed Alberta's annual resource return by as much as 30 per cent over the last 10 years. Stelmach also wants more of the billions from the oil sands of Fort McMurray to be processed within Alberta, generating added tax revenue.

But Stelmach has stopped short of promising to set aside more money to spend on roads, such as the Heritage Fund. The goal of the fund is to save for a rainy day—ensuring a drop in oil prices by investing royalties from

them yielded \$100 billions in a decade. Alberta started in 1980, 30 years ago, and it now has just \$21 billion stored. Several Tory leadership candidates had promised to invest 30 per cent of oil and gas royalties each year. Not Stelmach, who has wanted such a move could topple the province into deficit. But he will likely face repeated calls for the government to top up its piggy bank. "It's all this cash-pushing, the harder they will be saying to Alberta, 'I can't afford your program,'" says Kaseb. "A good way to do that is to say, 'Remember, we've committed to saving your money.'"

Stelmach is expected to unveil his new cabinet on Dec. 15. The pressure is on. The province's narrow majority eroded in 2008, which leaves just 18 members for Albertans to get to know him, and decide they want to keep the Tories around. All of this comes amid the threat of a shutdown. Albertans have been through enough booms and busts to know it's inevitable. Even around Andrew, they're waiting to get nervous. "They were punching holes in the ground like golfers around here," said Jason Henning, a berry picker, between stops at a blackberry in the town diner. "I've noticed a drop in the lot."



THE PIZZA POLL: As the new Tory leader, Stelmach faces potentially crippling issues.

non-renewable resources outside of the sector. In November, a similar program saw the government invest 300 per cent of oil and gas royalties outside the country—a plan that

six months. I don't mean to be a pessimist, but the people of Alberta better watch out, because the oil boom is going to come to an end sooner or later." ■



**RACK UP A CREDIT CARD, BECOME A MILLIONAIRE**  
"The best advice that we had was that this was the last expensive party for us to attend."—Ottawa resident Debbie McGowan on paying out \$3 million in severance to Hydro One CEO Tim McGowan after he resigned over \$45,000 in unaccounted for credit card charges. Former Hydro One CEO, Eleanor Gilchrist, filed a \$30-million wrongful dismissal suit after she was fired over credit spending.

# CANADA'S STICKING POINTS

**This nation remains transfixed by its inability to define itself**



MARTIN NEWLAND

BY MARTIN NEWLAND • If he'd helped in 2003 after five years helping to set up and edit the National Post newspaper, I returned this morning for a lecture tour of Ottawa and Vancouver to find that the country, despite a change of government and the subsequent changing of the federal Liberal stronghold on national affairs, has scarcely moved on.

My week-long tour coincided with significant news events—the passing of a motion in Parliament recognizing Quebec's status as a distinct society (Canada's whatever that means), the election of Stéphane Dion as the new leader of the federal Liberal party, and protests in B.C. at the opening of a new private medical clinic. All three appeared to me to represent Canada's perennial "sticking points"—respectively, the continued balkanization of the nation by Quebec separatists, the survival of the old, Christian-based federal Liberal consensus, and the national obsession with maintaining a public health system that is increasingly incapable of catering to the country's clinical needs.

Oh, and apparent everywhere, the usual foreign-press-American bias. As a foreigner, I will find it strange that Canada relies less on such surprise of a nation than it does most of its trade with it. To those fresh off the boat and unable to discern the patterns of the Canadian national character, Canadians sound like us Americans; they drink the same, watch the same U.S. content on television, and most of them live within a short distance of the Canada/U.S. border, as if down there by common cultural, social and economic ties. But walk into any bookstore in Canada, and notice how small of place a poem is in carrying the words of Woodward and Clemens and every author who ever produced anything negative on the apparent failure of the postwar Iraq settlement. Michael Ignatieff, the failed Liberal leader ship-consumer and probably the last hope for a forth and less radical approach, lost out to the uninspiring Don't largely because he (Ignatieff) had supported the war in Iraq, and because of his deep academic and cultural enmeshment in the U.S.

Watching Dion's devotion to Liberal leader

on television, I was struck by the party's acceptance, everywhere on display, and pandering to by an obsequious and sympathetic CBC, that the ascendancy of Stephen Harper's Conservatives was a mere necessary aberration, and that soon the "natural party of government" could resume normal service. Dion's success at the expense of Ignatieff represents continuity with the discredited, tired, stagnant regimes of Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin. The party's subsequent success in the opinion polls reveals that this apparent continuity has found a depressing resonance among the wider electorate.

Canada has also apparently found itself unable to move in any coherent, rational

priority of the Canada Health Act, simply cast off to the Mayo clinic when faced with an illness that the domestic system is incapable of providing prompt, effective treatment for.

But the Canadian health system has become too tied to politics and ideology. It also serves as a key emblem of Canadian identity that the diversity of universal first health care makes Canada an outlier from the rest of the empire to the south.

I do not want readers to think that this piece is just another exercise in Canada-bashing. I mean a deep affection for the country for the following reason—any quality of life was far higher in the days before the rise of a newspaper in Canada than it turned out to be in



PROTESTING a private Vancouver clinic: A health system tied to politics and ideology

coordinated way on the vexed question of health care—was a landmark Supreme Court ruling a year ago that found that the prohibition of private health care was contrary to an individual's human rights. When in Vancouver last week, I saw that protesters were out in force, demonstrating against the opening of the private False Creek Surgical Centre.

I can remember, when I came to live in Canada, being told a "terminal hospital" for my epileptic young son needed a brain scan. I waited six months before discovering that I could have accompanied the Canada Health Act on day one by answering a Canadian newspaper ad offering treatment across the border in Buffalo or by using a "connected" doctor who would arrange for us to jump the queue. I arrived to this day as how ordinary Canadians continue to tolerate a system in which injured bodies (often injured diagnostic testing before seriously ill citizens, and where the powerful and the privileged, even politicians charged with protecting the

system as chief of the Toronto Daily Telegraph, at three times the salary, upon returning to England. This quality-of-life calculation had little to do with remuneration and far more to do with the luxury, opportunity, possibility and relative youth of a country that is in the unique position of occupying the middle ground between "dipped out" Europe and "flamed out" America. Somewhere in this middle ground are the essential elements of the shared Canadian national character and the seeds perhaps of a unique political and cultural third way among G8 nations.

But the country still seems marinated, like a rabbit in the headlights of an incoming car, by its inability to define itself, choosing instead political and social reinforcements over risk. Canada is still juggling chaotically between the murky but once political, social and cultural poles of separatism, health-care liberalism and rabid anti-Americanism. History belies that a real breakthrough in just one of these spheres could set Canada on a more self-assured course. ■

What Accounting Should Be

Fourth profile in a series of six

**"We're more than lenders, we're partners..."**



Moyer Gomez, MBA, CMA, CFMA, Executive Vice-President and CFO, Farm Credit Canada (FCC), Regina, Saskatchewan



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What Accounting Should Be



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JAMES BAKER (left) with the report if Iraq can't be fixed, it should be contained

and the global economy could tank.

The Plan B era, therefore, starts with the assumption that if Iraq's woes can't be fixed, they must at least be contained. Two analysts, Daniel Byman, director of Georgetown University's Center for Peace and Security Studies, and Kenneth Pollack, research director at the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at Brookings, have been mining the history of past civil wars for lessons about how to "manage" the one in Iraq. They are planning to release a report next month. "In Plan B, none of the options are good—there's just choices of bad alternatives," Pollack told the Brookings forum. "There's been some sense that tried to contain and win, but none of them succeeded." So where to begin?

## A recipe for Iraq's Plan B

In searching for victory, the U.S. should make plans to contain defeat

BY LIZITA CH. BAWAGE • The ink is barely dry on the Iraq Study Group's 11th-hour recommendations for stabilizing Iraq and achieving national reconciliation, but there is growing fear in Washington that the country is spiraling into a Shiite-Muslim civil war that cannot be rolled back. "What if there is no national reconciliation?" asked Bruce Riedel, a former director of New York efforts to the National Security Council for three years. "We need to seriously think about Plan B," he told a forum at the Brookings Institution last week.

One option, of course, would be for the U.S. and its allies to pack up, pull out, and not look back. This goes along with their skills between their legs option is coming to be known, only half in jest, as Plan C. The problem with Plan C, of course, is leaving behind a war that could spread into a regional conflagration. In a worst case scenario fanned out by the Iraqi group, chaos in Iraq could lead Turkey to send troops into northern Iraq to prevent Kurdish independence, and Iran to send troops to gain control of oil fields in the south, the Shia could rise up in a rough-brothered Shiite-Muslim state, sparking violent regime changes and ethnic cleansing—a mess that "could take decades to play out." And if the instability spread to other oil-rich states, oil production could suffer, prices could spike,

Iran, take care of refugees. They have been a principal conduit for spreading civil war in places like Jordan, Lebanon and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The UN estimates there are 6 million internally displaced people in Iraq, while 1.5 million have left the country. They could bring unrest with them and become recruiting grounds for extremists if their conditions are desperate. Pollack recommends creating "safe havens" in border areas, and a major international effort to house, feed, protect and disarm the refugees.

Second, keep the Kurds in. It's clear that the U.S. has been overrating them (see following story). But Washington should work to prevent secession of the Kurdish-entrenched north, Pollack argued, because, "secession breeds secessionism." The Kurds could inspire Shiites in Iraq's south or in other Gulf nations the way the Sovietian split from Yugoslavia sparked a domino effect. Kurds will have a lot of economic assistance from the U.S. provides political, economic and military assistance, and help keep the Turks and Iranians, he said.

Third, keep serious negotiations moving, the way Syria and Israel did in Lebanon and Rwanda in the Congo. Military "buffer zones" along the border could prevent incursions or assassinations, but would require tens of thousands of troops. Economic assistance could help, too. History shows that countries with weak economic growth are less likely to get drawn in. And fourth, deal with Iraq's growing influence in Iraq and over the Shia militias. "We are just going to have to tolerate" some influence, while at the same time "lay down red lines" that cannot be crossed, such as an attack on the Kurds or outright annexation of territory, argued Pollack. As George W. Bush came aboard for a way to win a victory in Iraq, he would be wise to plan for containing a defeat. ■

# KURDS MATTER

Overlooked in Iraq's mayhem, the Kurdish north is a U.S. success

BY ADAM B. KHAN • So the next sign in the Iraq war has arrived. After years of reporting death tolls and sectarian divides, the world's media are now turning their attention to what comes next. The issue of much of what's written these days is bleak, as it should be. Iraqis are bitter, broken and divided. The U.S. is searching for a new approach. The



IN IRAQ'S SOUTH, on way of killing

word "human" pops up often in reference to U.S. strategy. But is it really that?

The conflict now raging is only one side of the Iraq story, but the U.S. didn't go into Iraq simply to fight a war. It also didn't go in solely to end the world of a dangerous dictator, allegedly possessing weapons of mass destruction, who liked to dine with international terrorists (both premises have proven false). The U.S. has its own interests. The neglected question is: have any of them been met? In another year, the answer to that question could be a resounding yes, namely, ensuring a free flow of oil and, in the process, establishing a regional front against what the White House perceives as one of its greatest threats—Iran. All indicators on the ground point to that fact, and success in both of these objectives hinges on what is an under-the-radar the most neglected region of Iraq, the largely Kurdish north.

Since 1991, when the Kurdish region was



protected by a U.S. and British-led no-fly zone, Iraq's northern frontier, which borders on Syria, Turkey and Iran, has been left in a limbo of sectarian and ethnic strife. After the fall of Saddam's despotic regime, which favored Sunnis while punishing Kurds and Shiites, Iraq's political development further strengthened the north. The national constitution, drafted in the summer of 2005 under the guidance of U.S. officials, gives the central government only nominal power while regions are given free rein to run their own affairs as nearly independent states, including administering their own armies. This, for Kurdistan, has been a godsend from the U.S., which viewed a strong, self-sufficient power being whose grace will ensure the Kurds' continued existence.

In fact, Kurdistan has become a virtual playground for the U.S., a region prized by its soldiers as a frontier deployment. On a 2004 visit to a base in Diyarbakir, near the Turkish border, Maclellan was tipped to what military standards would be used to measure, in an exotic home setting, not by the U.S. Army. Lunch was served on the back garden, along with a wide choice of alcoholic beverages as they often part of Iraq. The unit board there was sooo heavy to eat, and most of the soldiers told Maclellan they had no desire to head south. "Let 'em tell him that other," the commander said, referring to the factional fighting that had just begun to break out in Baghdad. "The Kurds are what matter to us."

And they will continue to. The U.S. is coming to accept that it cannot instantly snap what has blossomed into a strategy of letting in south and central Iraq. Washington is now agonizing over the key recommendations of former secretary of state James Baker's Iraq Study Group, which include a gradual withdrawal of combat troops over the next 18 months and entering into talks with neighboring countries over Iraq's future. But most of Iraq's regional neighbors—not only Iran and Syria, but also Saudi Arabia, the Iran-

**KURDISH FORCES** guard the oil fields in Kirkuk province. A godsend from the U.S.

rich region, is largely under the control of the Kurdish militia, the peshmerga. They control Mosul, the region's capital, access to the city, and more importantly, Mosul Dam, a major power-generating site on the Tigris River that provides much of Iraq's electricity needs.

American officials occasionally wag a finger at the Kurdish leadership, but in one high-level politeness to the Kurdistan Democratic Party's Masoud Barzani, "That's only their public face. Behind closed doors they're encouraging us to extend our control over the north." According to Col. Fred Thiel, a Kurdish peshmerga commander based at the Mosul Dam complex, the Kurdish militia was brought into the area at the Americans' request. "They made the request to [Kur-

## IN THE NORTH, THE U.S. HOPES TO ADVANCE ENERGY AND STRATEGIC INTERESTS THROUGH THE KURDS

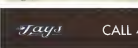
dish President] Masoud Barzani," he said. "It was a price [the Kurds should come in and secure the dam]."

With Kirkuk and Mosul largely in Kurdish hands, the north would control nearly one-fifth of Iraq's oil, pumped through Turkey, another U.S. ally. Although the oil in southern Iraq secures for some 60 percent of the country's known reserves, it is largely shipped through the port of Basra on sea routes, which pass through the Strait of Hormuz, dangerously close to Iran. And continuing instability in the south would further endanger oil supplies.

Identity, of course, the U.S. administration would have to see a stable, unified and politically friendly Iraq, where all of the oil flow is under American influence. Such an outcome now appears unlikely. Alternatively, for the past 15 years, the Kurds have been poised as the next Great Ally of the U.S. in the Middle East. Their time has almost come. The burning question is: could this have been the fall-back plan all along?

There, the military could enjoy the safety and comfort of Kurdish hospitality—while at the same time securing oil output along the major pipeline heading to Turkey. But there are other things that the U.S. hopes to advance in energy and strategic interests through the Kurds. Within the next year, the Iraq constitution requires a referendum in some oil-rich areas, including the future of the disputed oil-rich provinces of Basra, which includes the city of Kirkuk, and Ninawa. These future rests in the hands of the local population, made up of Kurds, Sunni Arabs and Turkish Iraqis in a constitutionally recognized process, any province may create a region or join an existing region of two-thirds of the population agree in a referendum for Timor and Ninawa, one is planned for 2007. And Kurdish authorities, with the knowledge of U.S. officials, have been quietly rescinding Kurdish Ninawa and Timor to dig the demographics in their favor.

According to an Oct. 5 story in the *New York Observer* about displaced persons flooding into Kirkuk, of the 100,000 living in camps, 15,000 were Kurds. Tens of thousands of them were given voting rights for provincial elections held on Jan. 30, 2005, in large part to ensure that Kurds would dominate regional politics. Ninawa, another resource-



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# FINAL RECKONING

The death of Chile's dictator is met with both joy and sadness

**BY ISABEL VINCENT** • Few in Latin America could overlook the irony that Gen. Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, the region's most scorned dictator, died last weekend on International Human Rights Day. During the 17 years of his rule, after he took control of the Chilean government in a U.S.-backed military coup in 1973, his regime was responsible for the deaths of nearly 3,200 Chileans, according to a report by the country's National Commission on Truth and Reconciliation. An estimated 1,200 opponents of Pinochet's rule are still classified as "disappeared." In total, more than 28,000 people were tortured. "When I saw the news on television that Pinochet had died, I couldn't help crying," said Patricia Verdugo, a Chilean writer whose book *Chile, Pinochet and the Caravan of Death* became instrumental in a series of legal proceedings against the ex-dictator in Chile.

Last month, in the latest legal challenge against the general two days after his 91st birthday, a Chilean judge put him under house arrest for the murder of Wagner Salinas and Francisco Lora, bodyguards of socialist president Salvador Allende, who committed suicide after Pinochet's forces seized control of the presidential palace on Sept. 11, 1973. The two bodyguards were allegedly victims of the Caravan of Death, in which a group of Chilean soldiers and secret police invaded the country killing any high-level opposition to the general. "Now he will never be brought to justice, because he died covered in the protective mantle of impunity," said Verdugo from her home in Buenos Aires. Her father was one of the victims of the Caravan of Death—kidnapped and killed by Pinochet's secret police in 1976.

In fact, before he stepped down in 1990, Pinochet made sure that he and a key group of military officers would be immune from prosecution in Chile. But in 2004, a Spanish judge successfully ordered his arrest while the general was in London under go-

ing medical treatment for his heart condition. The judge, Judge Garzon, made international legal history when he tried to have Pinochet extradited to Spain to face justice over the torture and death of Spanish citizens in Chile during his rule. Switzerland, France, Belgium, Norway and Sweden also denied his extradition while the general lived under house arrest for 95 days in London. When he was finally liberated in March 2006, Pinochet returned to Chile, where he has been fighting a mountain of legal proceedings against him for the last six years.

The current president, Michelle Bachelet, was herself a victim of torture during Pinochet's rule, and it was partly for this reason that the Chilean government refused to declare official

workdays, citizens mourned the passing of a man whose legacy changed the course of economic history in their country. For in addition to abolishing the constitution and stifling any opposition to his rule in the early days after the bloody coup, the former dictator enacted a radical series of free-market reforms that slowly and painfully transformed what was a bankrupt state into Latin America's most prosperous economy. Since the mid-1980s, the country's gross domestic product has grown an average of 5.6 percent a year, thanks to reforms that privatized inefficient state industries, attracted hypertechnology, and opened up Chile's economy to foreign investment. But even many of those conservatives who had applauded Chile's economic

WHILE SOME Chileans marked Pinochet's death with bubbly, others were more reflective



## HE INSTITUTED REFORMS THAT TRANSFORMED A BANKRUPT STATE INTO A MODERN ECONOMY

meaning or to bury the former president with the honors normally accorded to a statesman. No government in the world officially lamented his death, although former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher, a close friend of the general's, said she was "profoundly saddened" by his passing.

But Pinochet's legacy is a matter of dispute in Chile. While hundreds of Chileans took to the streets to celebrate his death last

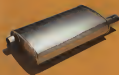
weekend under Pinochet had grown embittered in recent years when it was revealed that the general had some US\$10 million in secret bank accounts abroad.

Despite the fury involved against him, Pinochet, who lived in total seclusion in his house in Balcón, some 60 kilometers west of Santiago, remained unrepentant. At his last official address, read by his wife, Lucía Martínez, on Nov. 24, his birthday, Pinochet said he took "political responsibility" for the acts committed during his regime. He also said that the only reason for his return was to "make Chile a great country and to avoid its deterioration." ■

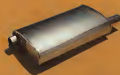


### CALIFORNIA: DAWN OF THE DEAD HENS

At one time, breed hens paid their age were sold for stewing meat, but that market has vanished. In Petaluma, Calif., leading egg producers are gassing "spent hens" with carbon monoxide and composting the carcasses. It's usually effective, but neighbors say they've seen at least a dozen "dead" chickens emerging from the compost piles and staggering about. Egg producers say that any zombie chickens are the result of inexperienced associations.



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# MACLEAN'S READERS' CHOICE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE YEAR IN HEALTHCARE

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Over the past month, readers have voted on  
[macleans.ca](http://macleans.ca) for the Achievement of the Year in Healthcare.

## The results are in!

### 1 Heather Crowe

A non-smoker who, before dying of lung cancer on May 22, 2006, led a high-profile campaign to eliminate exposure to second-hand smoke in the workplace. She is credited with influencing politicians to amend labour legislation and impose greater restrictions on smoking in public places.

### 2 Dr. Marco Marra

Team leader with BC Cancer Agency's Genome Sciences Centre for its significant contribution to the International Bovine Sequencing Project.

### 3 Dr. Hertzfel Gerstein

Research team leader at McMaster University on medication for slowing the progression from pre-diabetes to diabetes.

### 4 Dr. Frank Plummer

Scientific Director of the National Microbiology Laboratory, Winnipeg for research studying Africans who have an immune system response resistant to the HIV virus.

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**UNTIL YOU EXPERIENCE IT.**



While time has will soon be a mere foot note in history, don't expect this to spark a health craze. "There are two things that cause you to change your behavior, and health is never one of them," says Italian. "The issues are money and time." And the occasional frenchify craze.

# It's the end of Biovail as we know it



STEVEN MAIZEL

This month's issue Biovail, Canada's biggest publicly traded pharmaceutical company. Not exactly dead, but under. What was once among Canada's most important new economy firms is no longer. Eugene Melnyk, one of Canada's most controversial corporate leaders, is now first and foremost the owner of the Ottawa Senators. But not nearly—of all, this is a good thing.

When Biovail announced last week that it was coming to U.S. sales force, abandoning its search for acquisitions, trying to shed debt and paying back, it represented the most radical recent transformation of a public company in memory.

For a company that had made its name on using cash flow to fund takeovers, all this talk about divide and debt repayment was conspicuously, startlingly, conservative—like seeing Lindsay Lohan dressed up as Mrs. Doubtfire. As recently as May, CIBC Douglas Square had told investors that acquisitions remained the company's preferred choice for using its supply of cash. But, like all great economies—or in this case, managements—it was the product of necessity. Put simply, for Biovail, the jig was up.

Over since the company developed and launched the first generation of its 1996, much of its growth came from products developed by others and purchased by Biovail—Cardion from Avenor, Zovirax from GlaxoSmithKline, Vasotec from Merck, its current blockbuster, Wellbutrin XL, supplied 40 per cent of Biovail's sales last year. There again, Wellbutrin was developed by Glaxo. Biovail helped formulate a pill that could be taken once a day, and that cut itself on a multi-billion dollar price tag.

For a time this strategy worked brilliantly. Earnings grew, and the stock ranged as high as \$100 range five years ago. But analysts always wanted to know what would happen when Biovail couldn't find any more core product or products to buy. What happens when your best drug gets its market eaten

up by generic competition? As Biovail failed to cope with contracting revenues, credit lines tightened and the stock plunged.

Last week, investors finally got the answer they were waiting for. With no drugs to buy and no way to reverse all the errors of generic Wellbutrin XL, new year, Biovail transformed itself into what is, for all intents and purposes, an investment—a company with little or no prospects for growth, but a collection of products that drove off hundreds of millions in cash flow each year, most of which will be paid out directly to shareholders through dividends.

Biovail insists this is a new era, not a surrender, and that the future is bright. Chief executive Douglas Square says the company is now focusing its cash flow to concentrate on developing new drugs rather than buying them. The company will spend \$500

million, or less, in 2003. It's looking at less than 13 times next year's earnings, paying out 15 to 20 per share in dividends, and has a handful of modestly promising products in various stages of development. The company isn't yet positioned for investors to lay down money on the ground, making closing sales at any big spending end that might cause to take a look.

One person who won't be the second driver this bright new era would be former chief financial officer Charles Rowland, who announced his departure on the same day as Biovail's extreme makeover. Rowland left to take the same position at Bristol Pharmaceuticals—a company with fewer assets and lower revenues—just over two years after he arrived at Biovail. Rowland didn't suffer any losses for his departure, but looking at the two companies' financials provides a few hints. Tada may be smaller, but its share price is three

## Biovail insists this is just a new era, not a surrender, but the numbers say otherwise

and one over the next four years as research and development of new products. Still a billion bucks sound pretty impressive, it works out to about \$580 million a year—about 10 per cent more than the company has spent in the past. But no part of that, in perspective, Merck spent \$581.8 billion on R&D last year. At Pfizer, the figure was \$587.4 billion. Of course, those companies are far bigger, and when you consider R&D spending as a share of revenue, Biovail is comparable. The point is, blockbuster drugs are exceptionally difficult and costly to create, and in the game of pharmaceutical discovery, Biovail is in the featherweight division.

But investors don't. Biovail's main concern, earnings, dividends are. In yield it now needs of seven per cent—the highest on the TSX. When all is said and done, Biovail will send about once as much money to shareholders on an annual basis as it needs to its R&D lab, and that is perhaps the most telling sign of where the company's focus now lies.

A few analysts last week suggested that Biovail suddenly looks like a possible takeover target, and that might set a new Bay Street standard for underestimation. Squares bristled at the implication the company is bluffing itself up to be acquired, but the facts suggest otherwise. Biovail will soon be largely



MELNYK will get \$24.8 million in dividends

done what it was five years ago. Biovail's is less than a third of what it was then, and now it is projecting declining annual profits for the foreseeable future. The optics of Rowland's move are hard to mistake.

Melnyk may not like seeing his company end up like this, but he'll have plenty of money to get over it. The company's new dividend policy will give him \$24.8 million a year, and the two day surge in the stock last week added close to \$18.7 million to his net worth. But hopes of building Biovail into something more than it is? That one is over.

It's not the ending anyone expected. But sometimes going out with a whimper, not a shouter of cash, is the best you can hope for. ■



### CUSTOMERS CADE IN PRINCE RIT OF TROUBLE

Two Swedish customs officers recently faced discipline for compiling a photo log of "exceptionally beautiful women" who passed their checkpoints. The idea would photograph women's passport pictures. Their collection included directions to travel agencies, a list of "well-mannered women" (confirmation the border police discussed a complaint against them because they'd done nothing illegal), and a disciplinary board recommended only a warning.

# CHEAP IS SAFEST

## The rise of electronic controls has brought safety to the masses

BY VERA ORSHAN — In the past, if you went all top of the line safety features, you had to rough it up a bit. In a luxury vehicle. But technology has improved a great deal in so many years to the point that even cheap cars have become some of the safest on the road.

The U.S. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety recently released its 2007 Top Safety Pick, and eight out of the 13 cars leading the list are available in Canada for \$18,000 or less. That's despite new, tougher criteria that demanded all vehicles not equipped with electronic stability control (ESC) and those that didn't earn a good rat-

ing in rear crash testing, as well as the front and side ones. Not a single U.S. model made the cut, whereas inexpensive Asian vehicles dominated. The vehicles that pulled in the highest safety scores in their categories included the Acura MDX (starting at \$35,000), the Audi A4 (\$30,000), Honda Pilot (\$36,000), and Subaru Forester (\$18,000). Leading the pack in affordable safety were the Honda CRV, Kia Sedona, Subaru Legacy and Hyundai Entourage—all available for less than \$30,000.

The reason modern automotive safety has become so responsive, analysts say, is the industry-wide shift from mechanical technology to more effective electronic controls. When electronic safety systems were introduced 15 years ago, they were available on only the most expensive luxury vehicles, controlling all four wheels individually before a driver was even aware they'd lost control. But if you were driving a cheaper car, your only option was to press on the brake pedal, or to no. "When the car is about to crash, most drivers react consciously and too forcefully. What the ESC does is add just

the right amount of force at just the right moment," says Wayne Redder, who teaches auto products design at Georgian College. "Basically, we now have a bunch of computers talking to one another. It's not just a chip, it's a sophisticated system that integrates the whole vehicle."

That greater emphasis on high-tech safety is made necessary by the auto industry's continued trend toward greater horsepower, says Dennis DeRoos, president of DeRoos Automotive Consultants Inc. "A lot of our companies recognize that safety risks, and are highlighting a broad range of safety design features. You see them when

you drive by virtually any billboard or on the car," says the University of Waterloo's William Ahlborn, who oversees the safety of children during car accidents.

And given that crashes are the leading cause of death for children under the age of 14, the public's demand for cars and trucks that can survive a crash at almost any speed, and at any price, isn't likely to change. ■



KIA SEDONA: One safe option for \$20,400



# SOME INDIVIDUALS ARE SET FOR LIFE. THE REST OF US NEED FINANCIAL PLANNING.

There's an art to a financial plan. First, it's highly personal. Second, it must focus on both long- and short-term views as defined by estate, assets, personal tax and retirement issues—and more. You may feel you have a grasp of certain subjects but not of all components. You want to move forward, but not before you can see the complete picture. That's where a Certified Financial Planner® (CFP®) professional comes in. To find one, and to learn more about the process of financial planning, visit us at [www.cfp-can.org](http://www.cfp-can.org). A message from over 17,000 CFP® professionals and Financial Planner Standards Council.



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# Perry Mason vs. Duddy Kravitz

**Do Canada's secular courts have a role in adjudicating breaches of religious promises?**

**BY JAY TITTEL** • In a now classic episode of *The Sopranos* called "Denial, Anger, Acceptance" (Season 1, Episode 1), Tony Soprano is hired by a Mafia boss to convince the boss's estranged son in law to give his daughter a girl-a religious Jewish divorce in exchange for 25 per cent of his hotel business. The Mafia son in law, though, turns out to be resistant to persuasion, no matter how much Tony's headcrunch beats him up, that one of their eventually remarks, "If we don't let him go, we should get him to work." A prophetic scene.

On Dec. 5, the Supreme Court of Canada heard arguments in a landmark appeal of a Montreal woman seeking damages from her ex-husband, who withheld a girl from her for 15 years. The woman, Stephanie Braker, was originally awarded \$43,500 compensation from ex-husband Jason Marcovitz for having been unable to marry or have legitimate children according to Jewish law in the interim, but the decision was overturned by the Quebec Court of Appeal. This was an extremely significant, because the outcome (a decision from the Supreme is expected sometime in late spring or early fall, 2007) will determine, for essentially the first time, whether secular courts can adjudicate on breaches of religious promises, especially when those promises have been agreed to in a civil contract.

The implications for various religious communities are obvious. If a Muslim woman contracts to follow Shariah law at the time of her marriage, can she be sued subsequently for violating it? Can a Jehovah's Witness father who has undertaken in writing to follow Witness doctrine be sued by his wife if he grants an alimony child a blood transfusion? What if the religiously oriented minor either party has agreed to an abortion in the eyes of civil law?

The fact of the case read like a combination of *Perry Mason* and *Daddy Kravitz*. In 1969, Stephanie Braker, a 36-year-old convert to Judaism, and Jason Marcovitz, 37, an Orthodox Jew, were married in Montreal. After 13 years of marriage, they entered into a civil divorce, during which they both agreed, in what is

known as Quebec family law as "Consent to Corollary Relief," to also appear before the Jewish Beth Din, the rabbinical authorities, for "the purpose of obtaining the traditional religious *get*." Braker appeared, Marcovitz did not—for an undisclosed bail. Braker claims her ex's motive was primarily spite: "Men who do this usually have a lot of hate toward women," she recently told *Macleans*. "He didn't give me the *get* because of hate." Marcovitz claimed he was dragging his foot because Braker, who, according to Marcovitz's lawyer, has a history of emotional instability, was harassing him and trying to keep his children's alimony for life. In 1995, though, after 15 years of stone-walling, Marcovitz granted the *get*.

End of story? Not quite. Braker, at the time she had sold Marcovitz for half a million dollars for damages arising out of her protracted *get*-less case, during which time, she claimed, she was unable to marry under Jewish law and bear legitimate children (a claim that was true, although Braker in fact could have sought to have the marriage annulled, which she did). In 2001, Quebec Superior Court Justice Irwin Mass agreed, at least in modernity, awarding Braker \$43,500 in damages, on the grounds that the principal agreement was civilly enforceable as a contract, even though it obliged Marcovitz to participate in what was an inherently religious act. Two years later, the Quebec Court of Appeal overturned the decision, arguing that the part of the pre-*get* deal with the getting of the *get* was unenforceable precisely because it required a religious act, and so deprived Marcovitz of his religious freedom. Later a second appeal, and the Supreme Court.

But this case is like an alibi, in that it is legal. It turns out, for instance, that there's a yawning gulf between the legal arguments

on this side made to the Supreme Court on Dec. 5, and the larger implications the respective lawyers fear if they or her side loses. Braker's lawyers, for instance, contended primarily that the case was not religious and purely contractual (Marcovitz promised to appear, Marcovitz didn't appear). But Alan Stein, Braker's lead counsel, is at least as preoccupied with the survival of a law without religious overtones. Section 28 of the *Divorce Act*. This amendment, passed in 1999 and considered a progressive landmark, stipulates that divorced spouses must act promptly to remove any "barriers" to their opposite's religious remarriage that they have the power to remove. "If the appeal



A GROOM with a Jewish marriage contract: When is the chuppah time the state in family interfaith?

judgment is upheld, it's only a matter of time before someone questions the constitutionality of 28," Stein told *Macleans*. "It's an evolutionary step backward for the removal of religious barriers."

Conversely, Marcovitz's argument cites his religious freedom to appear or not to appear at the *get* proceedings (including the Talmudic ritual that by simply appearing under duress his religious rights would have been violated, because Jewish law explicitly mandates that the spouses should appear of



A JEWISH MARRIAGE. Lawyers to punish people for not being better Jews?

their own free will). But his lawyer, Anne Franco Goldwater of Montreal's Goldwater Deane, seems deeply about the civil a negative judgment would place on any family lawyer's willingness to include in even the most secular divorce agreement what she calls the "goodwill clauses." Ninety per cent of what I write into these agreements is nonsense in the strict legal sense, in the hope that people will follow it," says Goldwater, an smart a lawyer as the is a professional practice. "Parents shouldn't denigrate themselves, they shouldn't denigrate their kids. They should share the use of the car for the sale of the kid. Could I put that in there if I knew one day there could be a lawsuit? If you miss a Wednesday visit the'll sue you for violating your contract? There would be no end to law suits. More than 20 per cent of lawsuits in Quebec today are family law. The last thing you need to add into the mix is damages."

And if these contradictions aren't enough, consider the man "nevermore" in the case, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. The CCLA, recently the staunchest of defenders of religious freedoms, unusually found itself determining that when a "marry adulteries" a civil obligation to perform such an

(religious) act, the obligation is prima facie enforceable so long as the Court is not required to determine matters of religious doctrine. In other words, if you contract to do a religious deed, you should do it, and even pay damages to the injured party if you don't do it. What the court can't do, though, the restriction was quick to point out, is tell you to do it. What, though, is the threat of a lawsuit if you attempt to force someone to do what you want them to do?

Should the issue intrude on the church to enforce the occasional perversion in religious family traditions? Would the state, by siding with Marcovitz to pay damages for failing to provide a *get*, actually be punishing him for not being a better Jew (Goldwater's as answer)? What is the state and what is the church when comes to family transactions, for that matter, and can you tell the difference between the two when they sit down at your breakfast table or a lawyer's boardroom? These are the kinds of questions the Supreme Court now has the pleasure of deciding. When they do, Stephanie Braker will know whether she was wise to place her faith in their hands, or whether she should have called Tony Soprano in the first place. ■

**WHO'S SUING WHOM**

## GARDEN COMPANY WEEDS OUT THE SHOKERS

Scott Rodriguez of Succinea Bros. Moss, is suing a garden-supply firm, Scott's, after it subjected him to a drug test and the results came back positive—for nicotine. The company has a policy of not hiring smokers, even though the practice is illegal in 30 U.S. states (Mississippi isn't one of them). Scott's, which produces fertilizers and insecticides, says Rodriguez' testing is meant to promote healthy employees and reduce health-care costs.

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# HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

**How, exactly, do you prepare for life with identical twins who are joined at the head?**

**BY BEN MACQUEEN** • Felicia Simms, the mother of Canada's most famous baby twins, believes in the beauty and wonder of twins. They comfort and amaze her, and they have saved the wait a little yet, not so very long ago. "Anything mystical," she says. "Unicorns, dragons, anything." But especially faith, make of it what you will. She is just 33, and already a mother of two, and the subject of a national sensation. There are moments of sweet sadness when you speak with her, across the table in her parents' tiny stone home in Vernon, B.C., but there are flashes of wit and moments of self-assured maturity. These two twins are the needs in abundance, those and courage and the wisdom of Solomon. Her identical twins, Krista and Tatianna, born six weeks premature Oct. 25, are joined at the head, sharing some brain tissue; their bodies split apart, like two sides of an equilateral triangle. They were scheduled on Dec. 34 to be airlifted home to Vernon from their neonatal intensive care room at B.C. Women's Hospital and Health Centre, where they are thriving. MacQueen, an advanced Simms made her first quick trip home to Vernon to prepare for their release. An artificial tree is assembled. The living room is a tangle of light strips and extension cords, so the family prepares for what Simms's mother, Louise McKay, calls "our own Christmas miracle." Two of Simms's brothers cover for her in Vancouver, helping bottle-feed the girls. The twins are a family project. They're alive because of the wonders of modern medicine, because their mother willed it to be so, and because, she believes, she was chosen.

It was Solomon, the Biblical king, who needed the dispute between two women over

the parentage of a baby by offering to cut the child in two. Easy for him, it wasn't his kid. Here, the well being and the lives of one or both children hang in the balance. Felicia Simms is surrounded by a loving family. She has the support of Brendan Hogan, the father and her partner of almost seven years. She has the benefit of a remarkable medical team in Vancouver. One day, though, once the tests are complete and the prognosis delivered, it may come down to this: do you cut the babies apart? There will be a world full of opinions, but ultimately it will be a lonely decision. It will be Felicia's choice.

"God keeps a family album—and your picture is on it. God loves you and has a plan for your life!"—The Seventh-day Adventist Church, *What Adventists Believe*.

Little in Simms's young life prepared her for the financial, physical and ethical challenges presented by Krista and Tatianna. Of course, what would? Simms has always been quiet, introverted and easy going, sometimes to a fault, says McKay. Like her 45-year-old mother, Simms is prone to panic attacks, where the stresses of everyday life sometimes rise up to overwhelm them. The panic disorder, in fact, has put McKay on a disability pension, though she laughs that after surviving the past few months it's time to get back onto the workforce. Simms was raised with five siblings in a blended family of modest means for a time. Louise and her husband, Douglas, helped run a pizza parlor in Golden, B.C. Then they moved to the north Okanagan city of Vernon, where Simms spent her teen years. She met Hogan almost seven years ago, introduced by Simms's cousin and Hogan's best friend. They've mostly been together ever since, "through ups and downs," says Simms. Adds Hogan, a construction worker with a deep, gravel-cracking laugh, "We want to get our ups and downs out of the way before we get married." The two don't live together, but that should change next year. Hogan is saving for a house.

COURTESY OF B.C. WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

Their marriage proved an unplanned pregnancy. "I was 16 when I had Ross," she says of their two-and-a-half-year-old. "It was a surprise." Christopher, a seven-month bundle of energy, arrived two years later. Sierra finished high school from home, as well as a college course in computer accounting. Then came her long pregnancy. "Taiwan wanted to be a mom," she says. "But I also had dreams of becoming a hair stylist. I had my dreams." Hogan—dressed in a fleece sweater and pants of his favorite color, fluorescent orange—napped on the living room sofa. Ross, a combing-flowing beak, using an electric brush to gather it into a tiny pigtail under his chin. "She's still his dream," he humbles, rising to give Sierra a smile. "You've seen that did."

The news came out of the blue this July. Then, she was told after a routine ultrasound early in her pregnancy: "Gee, good talley." It was very traumatic and something very unexpected," she says. "When I calmed down a little bit and actually thought about it, and got the second opinion from doctors in Viet Nam, I kind of just knew that everything would be okay." Ending the pregnancy never seemed like a hard thing. She's a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, an evangelical Christian denomination. It disavows abortion as "one of the tragic dilemmas of human fallibility," but it is less doctrinaire

front page of the *Vermont Morning Star*, just two weeks after the diagnosis. Maybe others can benefit from the experience, says Sierra, who remembers, long before her pregnancy, being teased at stories on television about conjoined twins. "Also, we needed help," she says, "and the only way we could get help was to get it out there and tell everybody what was going on."

McKay, smiling by her own pipe, is the church's spokesperson, guidekeeper and preacher. "Nothing whatsoever prepared me for that."

One of the downsides of going public is a sense that Sierra and the twins are contrary property, debating points rather than flesh and blood. "Most people are positive and curious," says McKay. "But you've got the ones who are going to make comments that she's costing us money. We're just paying for these babies to be born," she says. There was an elderly woman who marched up to McKay. "She was so tiny and she looked so nice," she recalls. "She says, 'What's the deal with these children? She's only 23



ABOVE THE laughs, it sounded like swirling knives. "They're crying," she thought. "Yes."

## "I'M LIKE, ARE YOU GUYS HEARING EACH OTHER THINKING?" ASKS THE TWINS' MOTHER. "WHO KNOWS?" SHE SHRUGS.

than many on the issue. A church assembly in 1992 outlined the "exceptional" circumstances under which the decision on whether to terminate a pregnancy must rest with the woman. These include: "Significant threats to the pregnant woman's life, serious jeopardy to her health, severe congenital defects, or fully diagnosed in the fetus, and pregnancy resulting from rape or incest."

Asked if she is religious, she gives a tiny shrug. "Kind of half-Fish half," she says. "I believe in God and I go go to church and everything, and I do pray sometimes. But I also have things beyond that that I believe in, too." There is the church world, something the admin is so much with church theology. For all that, she accepts the twins as part of a higher plan. "In my mind, I obviously thought I was the best chance to have them," she says. Ask her why, and she smiles. "I don't know. He just thought I was the right person."

For two women with peace disorder, the next move was one of the most difficult: they made the decision to go public. "Twins proved a challenge," said a headline across the

says McKay, along women with an easy laugh and an infinite store of patience. One day the phone started ringing and a hand appeared. "They're not my daughter and I make sure she gets through this okay, I've got to do what I've got to do," she says. "It's something that everybody is ignored in, whether we like it or not."

Soon they drew love's net both mothers of seven and of unborning cruelty. Irene Allborough, a family friend and neighbor, helped establish a trust fund for the twins at the local Scotlandbank. Sierra, whom she's known since she was a teen, "is one of those always meant to be a mother," she says. Allborough helped distribute donation jars to local businesses, and she held a barbecue for the very pregnant Sierra this summer. "This woman comes up and the first words out of her mouth are, 'Where's the father in all that?'" said the father in here in Vermont, he's really supporting her. She says, maybe she should just get rid of them and get fixed. I almost felt sorry," Allborough says. "What gives anybody the right to judge her?"

years old, doesn't she know how to do her legs?" says Sierra, who is answered by negative responses to the birth. "It actually bothers me a lot more than it does her," says Hogan. "Think, it's okay, 'but you're right, and, I just don't know, whether they can say what over they want, it's not their life.'"

The Internet, of course, is abuzz with debate, most of it anonymous and much of it ugly. The *Globe and Mail*, in an online poll after the twins' birth, asked: "Should fetuses conceived in such a manner be allowed to come to term?" Some 59 per cent of more than 11,000 voters said no. In response, an anonymous poster to a Christian website replied: "The 40 per cent who would have conjoined twins ought to be terrified and have their kids put in foster homes so that they cannot select future generations with their characteristic deformity."

Sierra, through her unusually personal column, had become an unwitting hero of the arm-abound/you live movement. The right-to-life society in nearby Kelowna donated 14,000 to the trust fund. The Vermont

chapter goes as far as 1990. Paul Sehara, editor of the B.C. Catholic newspaper, urged support from other or similar-minded groups and individuals. "What a powerful statement for life, for concern for a mother who is under intense pressure, and for the place of people with disabilities in society," he fit.

monitors and equipment for both girls. The hospital was full of security. Looms: recalls "That felt funny. Going from a nobody, just suddenly, to having all these security guards around you. We looked out the windows at all the [downward] view and outside dishes that were up. It was a bit overwhelming."

In hospital rooms, smoked her forehead "He's the only one I know who can sit in the down and keep me calm," says Sierra. Then, rising above the electronic beeps of the equipment, are two weak cries, so faint they could be missing before. "They're crying," Sierra remembers thinking. "Yes."

## AN OLDER WOMAN MARCHED UP TO FELICIA'S MOM: 'SHE'S ONLY 21, DOESN'T SHE KNOW HOW TO CLOSE HER LEGS?'



FELICIA SIERRA with the twins (above) in November; Sierra, her mother, Louise McKay, and her two-year-old son Christopher in Vancouver

and such sentiment is mixed. The trust fund, depleted by travel and other expenses, was a modest \$3,487 last week. "I guess people just don't understand the actual cost involved having this kind of a pregnancy," says McKay. "And the special things the babies are going to need." Among them, as the twins get older and heavier, may be in-home nursing care, something McKay worries won't be funded by the province.

It is with great joy that Felicia Sierra and her sister Hogan announce the birth of their two daughters Krysta and Taiwana. Big sister Ross and big brother Chris are also excited to have new sisters—finally their announcement. Chris, dressed in a bright orange and white shirt, is a bright orange and white shirt to life on a computer screen. "We're going to watch the babies again," she says. By any standard, it was not a lightning bolt, as she was commissioned by the low postal boys. By Hogan's count, there were 12 medical staff in the Vancouver operating room two with rehearsed items ready, with

The medical staff had prepared for the worst, since most conjoined twins are delivered via cesarean, or the shortly after birth. Instead, the delivery has an air of well-rehearsed calm. The girls—born with a robust combined weight of 12 lb, 11 oz—are whisked to a cist where a medical prep crew wipes them down, checks their vitals, coats them to monitor and wrap them in warm towels. The girls are raw and red, their cries grow more robust. Their hair is dark, wet, tangled. The eyes, the two closest to the point where their skulls are fused together, are swollen shut, a temporary condition. "Mama's babies," says Christopher. Her words, as Sierra often tells them. Though McKay stands across the room, arms crossed, eyes fixed on the screen. "She has a whole pile of dolls, her grandparents says. Christmas gifts twice—that is, twice joined at the head—occur about once every 2.5 million pregnancies."



A blue curtain across Sierra's chest cut off her view of the team according to her Canadian delivery. There was a strange, pale complexion of her pale and poodled, thanks to an upland. Hogan, dressed

remains. "Of the 60 per cent that make birth, she says, suddenly an uncertainty as a subject almost beyond her imagining. "Seventy-five per cent of the survivors don't make it for 14 hours."



SUNNY HILL Health Centre staff have designed a BEDDIE ROOM CAR SEAT/bed for the twins

## THE TRUST FUND WAS A MODEST \$2.487. 'I GUESS PEOPLE JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND THE ACTUAL COSTS.'

'And maybe a bicycle, you know? There's lots of things for children.'—David Cooper, rehabilitation technologist, Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, Vancouver

There are practical matters pointed out to be dealt with before the twins go home—and that's only the beginning of a daunting list of issues. "The family has watched on a crib wide enough to accommodate the girls and how enough for them to be lifted in and out, a two-person operation. Meanwhile, staff at Vancouver's Sunny Hill, a health centre specializing in neonatology and services for children with complex disabilities, have covered dozens of hours designing a fixed-bed car seat, more of a bed actually that can be used to transport the twins. The seat can also be lifted out and placed into a stroller. The list goes on: David Cooper, a rehabilitation technologist at Sunny Hill, is already considering the challenges of designing a high chair for feeding the two when they're older, a tub support to allow them to be bathed, and other child hood necessities.

The huge cost of the delivery, intensive care stay and battery of tests are picked up by the provincial health plan, as they would be in any complex, premature birth. The government has retained the family a few last-minute bills, from the first diagnosis, a constant shuttle to and from Vancouver. Some of the expense of specialist equipment and other special needs will be carried by B.C.'s At Home Program, designed to assist families

with the extraordinary costs of caring at home for children with severe disabilities.

The fact the girls angle away from each other presents a considerable challenge as they grow older and more mobile, says Mary Ann Stacy, an occupational therapist at Sunny Hill. "For them to be able to sit on their own, they're going to have to come closer together," she says. Eventually they'll be able to read books to each other and even walk together, she says. "Our bedwires are such an interesting web." To accommodate each other, both will have to learn to bend their necks. "Like this," she says, lowering her head toward a shoulder. "The musician one is also going to elongate and on the other side are going to shorten, and that's a dilemma that, as a physical therapist, you look at," she says. "If there is any hope of them being separated in the future then you want them without normal muscles." The hospital staff draw the girls closer together each morning, says Shirley, "so they can hold hands and play. They just want to make sure that they still know there's somebody attached to them—they're not somebody else."

In many ways the most difficult hurdle for the septuplets was and the family is the matter of informed consent and the appropriateness of undertaking a separation procedure—Principles of Pediatric Surgery.

We are at the McKays' dining table, under a print of the Last Supper, looking "Conjoined Twin Ethelred Condemned," from Dr. James

O'Neill's *Principles of Pediatric Surgery*. "We run through the last in a separation possible with a 'reasonable chance of success', what will be the quality of life 'whether one or both survive', is it reasonable to operate when it is known ahead of time that only one or two can survive?" Here, Simon gives a stent, suggestive shake of her head. "Wouldn't happen," adds Louise. The last consensus should be pregnancy be terminated? Guess you're answered that one, I note. Simon giggles. If there's a reasonable chance that separation will succeed, "and if the family refuses, should legal medicine be sought?"

The final question respects a fairly debate. Douglas adds in. Say the doctors want to operate with a 60-40 chance of success and you refuse, he asks Simon, "who gets the last word?" She flashes a grin and a hard look. "Me," she says. "Is that even a question?" asks Hagen. "Yes," Douglas agrees, the doctors are likely to follow the patient's wishes. "But in a case like this," he points, "it's the patient, either one of the babies." He grimaces,

knowing he's lost this round. "These guys get mad at me. 'You're too damn analytical,'" he says. "But when you're a case like this, it's a good way to believe you never know what you're going to run into."

The debate may be rhetorical. Conjoinings are among the rarest of the rare, accounting just two per cent of all congenital cases. There have been some 210 conjoined, independent, workable twins who are both alive survive over the long term. Conjoinings are rarely successful candidates and there is a minimal joining of the brain and blood supply, O'Neill warns. "The other, long-term neurological problems persist."

Katana and Tatiana have separate brain areas but increase under how much brain tissue they share, says Dr. Doug Gohlman, a Vancouver pediatric neurosurgeon on the twins' medical team. It will take months of testing as they learn to develop to determine the extent of their bond, and whether it is medically possible to break it, says Gohlman, who is consulting with experts on conjoined twins around the world. "I think it is a fair to say the anatomy is complicated, and it's complicated even for people who have seen other patients with not similar, but sort of similar, forms of conjoinings."

Beyond the medical aspects of separating the girls are profound ethical issues, not only for the family and medical staff, but for society at large, he says. "It's society able to accept a person or persons that are this different," he adds. Ultimately it is up to parents to determine what is in the twins' best interests, he says. "We recognize the authority of the family to make an informed decision, if we can provide them with the information." Gohlman says he is impressed by the tight family bond that formed around Simon from the beginning. "I think this family has come together with more strength than many of us could even imagine bringing to this. They are so committed for this. They are so committed for this."

Simon has told her doctors she will consider separation if both daughters are likely to survive. "But if they weren't sure they could save both of them, it just wouldn't happen," she says. "Then, it would be left up to them when they get older." Both mother and daughter, she says, "I wouldn't risk that at all."

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## 'I THINK THIS FAMILY HAS COME TOGETHER WITH MORE STRENGTH THAN MANY OF US COULD EVEN IMAGINE'



THE SPECIALLY designed car seat can also be lifted out and placed into a stroller

er have been online researching other conjoined twins. They've been impressed by the quality of life many achieve, even without separation. "The girls, I think, are going to adjust through," says McKay. "We believe at some point they will be separated. If not, we'll make their lives the best we can do. This is a major life obstacle we have to put up with. They were given to us for a reason."

The idea of separation for adult conjoinings goes even to both a shared and mutually personal decision. Sisters Lachlan and Lachlan Stuart trained in law in their home country of New Zealand. Lachlan loved law, Lachlan wanted to be a journalist. Determined to

separate, they moved to Vancouver in 2005, living within hours of each other in the same building. Sisters Rebecca and Lori Schepel, 45, share an apartment in Redmond, B.C. Rebecca, whose lower body is weakened by spinal bifida, uses a wheelchair and the designed herself she has forged a career as a country singer. Lori, the more outgoing and physically able, has worked in a hospital library between her own musical gigs. While the two share some brain matter, they have distinct personalities and independent views. Neither wants separation. "No, we're fine just the way we are," Lori told interviewer Larry King. "There's never a 100 per cent guarantee and we wouldn't risk that at all."

Twins are all different. —Felicity Simon

Katana came in a dream. It was only later she realized it was the name, spelled differently, of the curious and beautiful fairy in the cartoon movie *Fairy Gull*, a favourite of her daughter Krana. Gull is named after

a fairy, too. "Her name means Fairy Queen?" Simon has grown immune to the dark quarter of pseudonyms, so quarters about the powers and propensities of various fairies have not been a problem. "There are the same names of fairies of Christians," she explains. There are spring fairies, "they help the flowers bloom." There are bushies, who work with the trees and seasons, and many, many more. "They do come in all different colours and they speak." But are they real? "I think some fairies do exist," she replies. "I believe an angel is a type of fairy."

Simon has a bounding air of otherworldly calm. Sometimes, she concedes, she feels her pulse racing, but she accepts her struggle with what she can, and deals with

the challenges as they arise. As Hagen readily admits, "In the one who gets worked up." In the days after their births, it was possible to put a soother in the mouth of one girl and have the other stop crying. That is less likely to happen now. Krana and Tatiana are asserting their individuality. Already the family sees attributes of the parents in the girls. Krana is the quiet one. Like her mother, they agree. "Fairy has my attitude," says Krana. "Very bad." Grandmother McKay agrees. "They balance each other out."

Their mother has had no difficulty from the beginning seeing her babies as individuals. She claims she could tell them apart in her womb—5-6, often when she watches them cry or one or the other, the wonder about that part of the brain they share. "You like, I want to know what you guys are thinking. Are you guys hearing each other's thoughts?" She shrugs. "Who knows?"

Think of the arguments they might have, says their father. "Dad, tell her to get out of my head." "And then what, also mean?" "One of them needs to be punished and put in a corner, the other has to go with her." And she laughs, everybody laughs, at the wonder of it all. M

ON THE WEB, find more photos and video of the twins: [www.mckays.com](http://www.mckays.com)

**PENNSYLVANIA: EVERY HOME MUST HAVE HEAT**

The small town of Cherry Tree, 90 km northwest of Pittsburgh, is leading legislation requiring all households to have gas and wood-burning stoves. The sponsor of the Civil Protection Ordinance, Harry Stankovic, says residents have a responsibility to protect themselves against wildfires. "I don't believe your wife would appreciate it," he wrote, "if you said, 'Money, it's well used the police arrive and have them defend your life.'"



ALL THE SOUND and fury tried to obscure the fact that George the host isn't 100-BCB

# A TINFOIL SUIT IN A LIGHTNING STORM

**Poor besieged George Stroumboulopoulos, carring CBC on his back**

BY JONATHAN GATHEHOUSE • George Stroumboulopoulos is not the messiah. Yes, the CBC doings in fact to witness his language, upholding his standards and aims, we, bright eyes on billboards (easy to cast). But his doctored shoulders aren't broad enough to carry the weight of expectations. And his program, *The Hour*—a five-night-a-week parade of news, politics and pop-culture—is neither the saviour nor the savior for Canada's public broadcaster (it's just a TV show, dude). "Of course I can't survive CBC," Stroumboulopoulos says as he sits in his darkened Toronto office, an abandoned nest of Vancouver soap and offshore beats (even his lunch-a-day commutes are hiked). "One show does not make a network. This isn't like NBC and *Friends*. A rare—most of an award-winning author's really, since George isn't the happy type—is building. The whole premise that the CBC is broken is wrong. The public broadcaster just needs to do a better job instead

advancing than Tommy Douglas he voted "The Greatest Canadian," down more than one million viewers, and the father of medicine won the competition. *Newsweek* applied the same, offering Stroumboulopoulos the 5 p.m. slot that formerly occupied by Ann Levine's *Contemporary*, executive producer insists, a story in itself, and the freedom to make the kind of program he wanted. The first debut on the fledgling new channel in January 2007. (The main network wanted to broadcast that show in its late-night slot this past October.) CBC soon added his John Doyle of the *Globe and Mail* had a field day. *Stroumboulopoulos* was "a kid doing a grown-up job," and his kooky, breezy show was instant hit. "Fast and slippery with his coat," it's a leading critic. "Adam Newman, a TV columnist for *Toronto's* *City Weekly* dubbed him "about as much as a threat." And he's been the network for its "cynical" lining, drawing a comparison with a classic *Simpsons* episode in which executives try to update the cartoon within a cartoon. *Hour* and *Scratchy* adding "Poochie," a pre-telling, tongue-twisting, surfing dog.

Stroumboulopoulos, who reads his own press, was stung by the reaction. He was used to being paraded as the smart grown-up at MacMillan, where he did news specials on election and the crisis in Darfur. "Nothing had changed, except the network." The criticism didn't, he says, sound so much on how he looks—silly hat, four earrings, bedecked with bracelets, nudged belt, a death-head ring, and always, always dressed in black slacks—rather than what he's saying. "If you think I'm dumbing the news down, well, that's you. You don't really get what we're doing. Because we're not dumbing the news down, we're explaining it."

The negative coverage reached a crescendo this past summer when Stroumboulopoulos took a gig with ABC's *Living The Dream*, a summer reality series. CBC kept *Hour* from the air, and the *National* back on the air to accommodate a rival, sending a clear message about how much they value their latest right acquisition. The show drew the U.S. TV equivalent of point-dropping three million viewers—and was quickly axed. "Maybe people are falling away for Stroumboulopoulos, but hardly the press has been a lot kinder. The *Times* Star and the *Globe* undertook lengthy investigations of his past for many months the fall. And this isn't the *Times*. It's just a long profile of a "treble" in happy parts.

For his part, the CBC press seems to be trying to stabilize its air from the back of the Richard Stenberg, the executive vice-president of English TV, has made one million viewers the benchmark for a successful prime

time CBC show. But network executives are setting the bar considerably lower for the 11 p.m. slot. "The *Hour* is making money where I expect it to," says Kristine Layfield, exec. vice president of network programming. "We're really happy with it. It's a real case of passion. The main thing is that the measure of a success on the CBC isn't just about the ratings, it's about how much discussion it starts. And this show has started a lot of discussion." The average nightly audience for the program over its first two months on the main network was 110,000 viewers—a substantial improvement over the 30,000 people *Zed*, the previous owner of the time slot, used to deliver. The weekly numbers also show a modest upward trend. However, *The Hour*'s lead-in, *Peter Mansbridge*, draws close to 600,000. And the average cancellation of rights when Stroumboulopoulos's audience hasn't panned CBC isn't possible the band-

width the network will give his show "more to grow," and means he has a contract that extends beyond this season. But inside the CBC, news he's confused with Hollywood, there is plenty of speculation. The shortfall in this year's TV budget is reportedly \$25 million, and if the network loses in 2011, however much to avoid CBC next year, it's likely more expensive to produce than community access television could be in properly. Stroumboulopoulos's high profile has also had many rumors, such as the story that CBC has taken away the studio of Rick Mercer (who publishes a million viewers) without telling him where he was on summer vacation, and gave to *The Hour*. (Mercer denies the tale, saying he's delighted with his new digs. "I'm happy I'm in the best studio.")

All the sound and fury about the padding of Stroumboulopoulos' trends to obscure the fact that George the host isn't half bad

and high. Ratings like yesterday. Billy Connolly and Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, or Tony Bennett and British MP's vice-president George Galloway, have been dynamic. Jane Arden and the pay from *Dropkick* show, so much.

But watch the way Stroumboulopoulos interacts with his studio audience and his true potential suddenly appears. He chats them up as they wait in line, plays a little piano to keep them entertained, answers all their questions before, during, and after the show, and poses for as many photos as they want. There are no barriers. Stroumboulopoulos seems to be so perfectly at the wheel (which has the ring of those stories that both argue like to tell about how they were before they were well) and honest, he people skills working as a movie actor. Whatever the explanation, it's a real talent. You get the feeling that CBC would dominate the field if they



INSIDE THE CBC—NEVER TO BE CONFUSED WITH HAPPYLAND—THERE IS LOTS OF SPECULATION

show) dipped as low as 10,000. Layfield boasts that *The Hour* has, on occasion, even been *Jon Stewart's Daily Show*, and the *Colbert Report*. What she doesn't add is that those broadcasts of the U.S. don't show viewers. The combined average audience for the two shows on the Comedy Network—a specialty channel—is 18,000. When Stewart and Colbert are rebroadcast on the main TV network at midday—as how late Stroumboulopoulos—the number grows to 200,000.

Just who is watching *The Hour* might also prove a problem. The audience is considerably younger than for most CBC shows, but it's not exactly youthful—the highest proportion are aged 25 to 49. Layfield says that's part of the plan, and post-peak the weekly lead belief that Stroumboulopoulos was supposed to appeal to the kids. "It's not a show that we've ever designed or intended before for 18-year-olds," she says.

A decision about *The Hour*'s future will not be made until February or March, but Stroumboulopoulos says he has received assurances

that he has an easy chair, can talk like the wind, and the show really balances the interesting and the funny. "I'll turn for a day and it quickly becomes apparent that he's exactly the same as on the air—sometimes in too much of a hurry, but never stressed. He's not a face as an interviewer ("You go out there with a whole bunch of planned-out questions and then you get the answers you want, rather than the answers that are in them," he says) but he does have a knack for putting his subjects at ease and getting out of their way. Consequently, the show lives and dies by the quality of its guests—which by Canadian television standards has been

could only find him on a house-to-house cross-country tour.

It's just the latest point on the CBC hyper-doctor's continuum—Daniel Richter, Ann Lewis, Evan Solomon, Jan Chomkowski, or *The One*. The moving—a feature of this time two seasons—is gone. Maybe it's the season, but he's worn red once on the last week. There's a possibility that George Stroumboulopoulos could grow up without growing old. Right now, though, he's a little too stoked about interviewing the guy from Twitter. **M**

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**WALL STREET JOURNAL QUELLS CHORUS RAGE**  
The Reverend Rick Warren, pastor of the Saddleback Church (of Orange County, Calif.) and author of the *Proven Ministry* book, advocates that church leaders avoid contemporary music. He has not encouraged ministers to banish choir, as he was last year reported in a Sept. 5 article in *Wm. Warren's* movement. —A corrective in the *Wall Street Journal*, Dec. 8, as quoted on [regothetwice.com](http://regothetwice.com)

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# Mad Mel's passion for vengeance

He recanted his anti-Semitism, but can we forgive his movies? BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON

film

The last time I talked to Mel Gibson was in 1990. He was in Toronto promoting *Payback*, in which he plays a criminal who loses a trail of bloody vengeance after a partner wipes his foot and shoots him in the back. Near the end of the interview, after talking about guns and movies and children, I asked Gibson what he was planning to do next. "I don't know," he stated. "I was thinking of invading Poland."

At the time, it seemed like an innocent quip, just Mel being his merry old irrepressible self. Now, after his drunken, anti-Semitic rant on a *Matilda* highway, that little joke—along with his entire career—takes on a different complexion. After Gibson told a copy that "the Jews are responsible for all the wars in the world," in Hollywood, where Jews are responsible for quite a few movies in the world, there was speculation that Gibson's career was forever ruined. But just months later, his Mayan epic, *Apocalypse*, has recast

for *Apocalypse* [1997]—now has to decide if it can overlook his racist indiscretions and pay homage to a film that would normally be irredeemable Oscar bait. *Apocalypse* plays like a mainstream transfix, a bloodbath of ignominious savagery that dignifies understating gore with subtitled Mayan dialogue and a surprising stream of eco-lectures.

In a world feeling battle fatigue from digital effects, there's a bracing athletic vigour to *Apocalypse*'s low-tech courage. Like *Glenn Ruggie*, this is an unapologetic action movie

and Hyde. By day, he's a serious actor, a charismatic star and arguably Hollywood's most successful independent filmmaker. A charmer with an ironclad wit, he also knows how to work the room. Then there's full-on Mel, a manly drunk capable of mauling his reputation in a tongue-lashed blast of self-destruction. But maybe the split between *man* and *monster* is no contradiction at all. Maybe the same rage that drives Mel Mel's demons is exactly what possesses his film-making. "It goes into his charisma," Mel's director George Miller told me recently. "On the one hand, he's incredibly sweet and kind and unpretentious. But he's got all this pent-up anger inside of him."

As an action hero, Gibson arrived like the second coming of Clint Eastwood. He launched his career as a road warrior in *Mad Max*, Australia's fastest answer to the spaghetti-western. Next he paraded his unique style of off-kilter cool as an unbridled Dirty Harry in the *Lethal Weapon* franchise. His rage took on righteous form as he played absolute-bitchy guerrilla swinging merciless love ones in two anti-colonial epics, *Braveheart* and *The Patriot*. And as a writer who turns the tables on his enemy, he embodied the modern vigilante in *Armageddon* and *Payback*.

But while Clint was the loneliest cowboy who



**APCALYPSE** surges on exploitation, but there's something curiously old-fashioned about it

a lot of wide-eyed critical sniffers. And audiences have apparently forgiven Gibson by making it the top grossing movie on opening weekend—or maybe they just decided they'd rather watch half-naked Mayans slaughter each other than sit through *The Holiday*.

Either way, Mel is back in business. And the Academy—which awarded Gibson Best Picture

that rediscovered the simple thrill of the fast race. So Hollywood is faced with a conundrum: how to reconcile Mel, the drunken anti-Semite, with Mel, mid-cinema of the Bush-and-Blood New Yorker. It hasn't faced such a moral quandary since Woody Allen snafu off with Mia Farrow's teenage daughter. Gibson appears to be a Hollywood Jekyll-

gone the telling does work no undue fan, Mel is the gorilla in the room—displaying a more extensive appetite for blood than any mainstream director outside the horror genre. A conservative Christian and father of seven children, he's said "there is no salvation for those outside the Church"—including his Episcopalian wife. But he's not one to turn the other cheek. Vengeance seems to come easier to him than forgiveness, on- and off-screen. Once he responded to a criticism by Frank Rich of the *New York Times* by saying, "I want to kill him. I want his intestines on a stick. I want to kill his dog."

Thereat, of course, a reached to Mediterranean. Classically trained as a stage actor, he's proven his talent in serious dramas such as *Caligula*, *The Year of Living Dangerously* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. For his risky directing debut, *The Man Without a Face*, he played a disillusioned actor/surgeon suspect of being a pedophile. And





THE CREATORS of *How I Met Your Mother* say they won't let Barney Egan take over the show the way *The Four* did on *Happy Days*

## Why Barney is the new Fonzie

Fans love a jerky character on 'How I Met Your Mother' because of his catchphrases

BY JAMIE L. WEINMAN • What makes a popular television character? Is it their blubbity, compassionate? None of the above: it's about quotable catchphrases. Take Barney Stinson, the character Neil Patrick Harris plays on CBS' sitcom *How I Met Your Mother*. Here we have an amoral playboy who cares more about his beautifully tailored clothes than the women he dates. Craig Thomas, who co-created the show with Carter Bays, says "It's easier to watch the guy on TV than actually have to hang with him all the time." But he's the most popular character on the series, and he gets the best catchphrases. Harris and Barney are to *How I Met Your Mother* what Henry Winkler and the Fonz were to *Happy Days*.

Barney entered the catchphrase hall of fame in the pilot for *How I Met Your Mother*. Adorning another character to dress like him, he exclaims, "Suit up!"—signifying, Thomas says, that "he thought of his suit as some kind of superhero outfit that separated him from the guys." He's repeated that phrase in subsequent episodes, adapting it to fit whatever suit he's wearing, like "Flight suit up!" It's become so closely associated with the character, and with the show, that the U.S. cable network TV Land named "Suit up" one of television's 100 greatest catchphrases.

The dandyism of *How I Met Your Mother* from most TV shows today—but not shows of a bygone era. In a recent article in *Time* magazine, a writer for *Duff* (the *Brooklyn* magazine) said that a good catchphrase was considered very important for a sitcom, and then he and his staff would sweep over the proper phrases of Cary Coleman's catchphrase, "What you talkin' 'bout, Willis?" Things are different now, and writers are less likely to repeat

phrases in every episode: the TV Land list included only three other characters from contemporary shows. That makes Barney a throwback to the golden age of Cary Coleman.

It's not just "Suit up" that has become associated with the character. TV Land didn't get around to other Barney lines that are eagerly anticipated by fans. There's "Leg craddy!", his typical description for his lame wacky scheme to get girls. Or "Wax for us," which he interposes between two halves of a word ("Porn... was for it...igraphy"). Or "Have you met Ted?", which Thomas says is based on a Barney-like person he and Bays used to hang out with. "There was a good friend of ours who always went out with us, and he'd play 'Have you met Carter?' to try to meet chicks, get a conversation started."

You might think that these attributes—the catchphrases, the repeated repetition of many catchphrases—wouldn't fit in with a show like *How I Met Your Mother*. It's mostly a romance comedy, focusing on two young couples, and Barney's the only character who isn't charming. But so the line over among otherwise cute and charming people, Barney comes off as reminiscent of lovably jerky, selfish sitcom characters like John Larroquette on *Night Court*. Thomas says that Harris "often jokes that he's Larry from *Night Court*."

The question is whether, like other sit-

coms, *How I Met Your Mother* will wind up being reconstructed to focus on a popular catchphrase-spouting jerk. The show's ratings aren't particularly high, and some critics are arguing that it could be better off with more of Barney and less of the other characters. *Arny* (a parody of Barney) on *30 Rock*, wrote that "the puns of this show are better than its whole, and Barney is the show's best part." Ever since *Happy Days* was rebuilt around the Fonz, there's always the danger that an ensemble show will turn into a vehicle for the character who makes a big splash.

But Thomas says he and Bays aren't going to let that happen to *How I Met Your Mother*. For one thing, they keep Barney from becoming a cartoon by demonstrating that he has a vulnerable side: one flashback shows that he became the jerk he is today after he was dumped by a woman he loved. "Ultimately, he's a pretty fragile character who's really afraid of being alone," Thomas says. "He just wants people to like him, to be important to people, and to have disciples who follow his word."

But that side of Barney comes out a couple of times a season at most. It's Barney the catchphrase machine that audiences seem to have fallen in love with, for his almost Pensive self-confidence. Or as Thomas puts it: "I mean Barney is a character who'd be very happy to know he's made the '100 Greatest Catchphrases' list, but then again, I'm sure he was expecting it all along." ■



### IAGG STUDY GROUP REPORT ACCORDING TO TV

"The report is No. 2 on America's best-loved 500 Publishing Inc. are offering the *How I Met Your Mother* to buy a copy because they want to study the show and the long study group." "Cory O'Brien" is excited. The *Way Forward*—a New Approach, a stark contrast from the book Bush had been opening from, *Deeper and Deeper into the Hole that I Met Your Mother*—is Joe Stewart.

TOP LEFT: TV LAND; RIGHT: CRYSTAL BALL

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MARTHA, unlike a lot of Christmas book authors, is hip to using coccobus—the perfect Christmas book word—in her seasonal toms

## I'm dreaming of a coddpiece topiary

**Sadly, some how-to-have-a-perfect-Christmas authors aim only as high as potpourri**

BY MARK STEIN

I'm one of those guys who tend to leave the old Yuletide programs until around 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve only to discover that half the presents (and only a 3 p.m. and there will again have got nothing left except for mass unceremoniousness on Hallelujah wrapping paper. Not for a fly by the seat-of-the-pants-waiter's hand of guy I seem to have acquired over the years as numerous number of books on how to have the perfect Christmas.

There's *Checklist for a Perfect Christmas* by Judith Tishnik, and *How to Have a Perfect Christmas* by Helen Joslin, and *The Absolutely Wildest & Dearest Most Fabulously Perfect Christmas Ever* by Evelyn Marshall, and *Creating Your Perfect Christmas Style* (Life and Style) by Susan Swenson for the former known by Antoinette Swenson, and Susan Pell, because their authors are now around with one of your most then a multi-step project. The main story the main, I always say. One stands apart before those folks who not only have their own seasonal celebrations under wheelbarrow to the second corner of it but also find time to write a bestseller with a family-friendly title like *My Beginning to Look a Lot Like Lady Christmas* (Then It Should Considered It's Already The Second Week Of September).

For the most part, these authors seem to have no concern beyond the holiday season. The two festive co-author combo is a particular favorite, both of them on the back cover mention looking like extra from *The Andy Williams Christmas Show* (It's really an "Antoinette Swenson" or "Susan Pell"). Their names sound awfully like their homelike type "For fun on Christmas

morning, why not cut up the gift tags and re-dressfully assemble them into holiday advice-book author pseudonyms?" (John Tishnik's) "It's the blinks what Savage has when they find him face down in the mud and not Christmas? Bink-bink-bink-bink."

I don't want to give the wrong impression. A lot of the stuff in these comes to very intriguing. Each page, for example, I dig out my old pal Martha Stewart's entry in the field—Martha Stewart's Christmas—and find myself strangely drawn to the phrase "coccobus topiary." It's huge. It starts out as a message being like a ball that's fallen into a trash compactor, but that's before

**IT'S A VERY USEFUL TIP: A BLAZING HEARTS OF OREGANO CAN HELP TONE DOWN THE OVERPOWERING STENCH OF CINNAMON.**

Martha got to work "unleashing" it with a glass of random—"you coccobus dressed with clear glitter." They may have thought the English language would ever have used for those words assembled in that order! Every third week of December, I read there and mine! And then I draw to "Whitman."

"Coccobus" is the perfect Perfect Christmas Book word. Not all perfect Christmas authors are hip to that. Some think you can

endure "coccobus" and get away with "pot power," which your own of-the-mill generic audiobook *Most Fabulously Perfect Christmas* was ever book down around the past like, well, potpourri. But what is the fool tells King Lear? "If those fallow hen, those meat were not my coccobus." Or am I thinking of the coddle? I always did get them mixed up at school. Coddle topiary would also add a distinctive touch to one's holiday, though perhaps a livelier talking point than one might want in a Christmas centerpiece. But the point is, if those fellows Martha, those meat needs war her coccobus. Also her performance, not even great Perfect Christmas Book word. If I were ever to write my own seasonal advice book, I would do to under the nose of those (or, indeed, nose de phume plugging) of her, never coccobus.

In *Old-fashioned Country Christmas* by Vickie and JoAnn of the Goodberry Patch, Joan Schaeffer is

more offbeat. "Say phorns and be in small bundles to day (during the winter when the fireplace is in use, toss a bundle of herbs into the crackling fire for a wonderful scent.)" Like the unavailability of that "toss" that it's a very useful tip. A blazing hearth of oregano helps tone down the overpowering stench of cinnamon that can otherwise so easily predominate at this time of year. Sell, the truly perfect preparing for Christmas book, stretches Schaeffer's own coccobus, pre-

### FINALLY A BOOK ABOUT...UNINTELLIGENT DESIGN

Physicist Scott Turner's *The Designer's Accolade* (Harvard UP) takes middle ground in a better ideological choice. Dawkins insist that the appearance of design in nature is just that—illusion—with much of the world statistically tailoring the opposite. Turner argues that design is real, arising from homeostasis—the tendency of organisms to create a stable environment through constant adjustment—even if it does not require a designer.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES L. LINDSAY



WHETHER YOU have your party in December or, as some experts suggest, in July, don't forget to add Christmas pudding to your list

fering not a hint of creative effort and seasonal reward. Nothing sets up the game more accurately than two words: "Piss-also, holic, women!" for which cup of cheerless mess one can find a recipe in Christmas 101 by Rick Rodgers.

As the title suggests, Mr. Rodgers, the author of *Thanksgiving 101*, sticks with the basics: "Organization is a skill I developed as a manager," he begins. Without organization, you're screwed. You're screwed beyond the

chose off the list, you will get a rewarding sense of accomplishment."

But what if your list is simply too extensive? As Rick Rodgers further cautions, "If you look at a list and feel overwhelmed, pick up the phone and give friend to give you a hand."

But, by this stage, Rodgers knows he may be grabbing the cup of his making a tad too far and that it's time to get on to the actual list. "Here," he warns, "are the lists that I use again and again."

And the first one is...

"Guest List." "If you're having a large holiday season party, send out invitations as early as possible." But

when should you have a holiday season party? A good tip is to hold it during the holiday season. "We usually give our holiday party the week between Christmas and New Year's," reveals Mr. Rodgers.

What a pity! The true secret of successful Christmas planning is not to schedule it in December. As Vickie and JoAnn remembered in *Old-fashioned Country Christmas*: "I don't know how your annual party in December when you're too overwhelmed to enjoy it, host a cocktail in July with a Christmas theme, everything and green! Bright and watermelon, green salad, but not Christmas decorations!" "White twinkling lights, Christmas napkins and a small artificial tree decorated with little home-crafted items make for a very festive atmosphere." And in Canada in July we may even have real snow!

Christmas in summer, huh? That doesn't sound much like an "old-fashioned country Christmas," unless the country in question is Australia. Yet it makes perfect sense, and not just because making a "decency conversation" is a holiday season party at Christmas. After all, if you show up at your holiday season party, it'll show up a lot of time in late December to work on

your coccobus topiary. ■

### MACLEAN'S BESTSELLERS

COMPILED BY BRIAN BEHRENS

#### Fiction LAST WEEK (PAGES ON LIST)

1. **SECRETS FROM THE VINYL CAFE** by Stuart McLean 100
2. **THE CUSTODIAN OF PARADISE** by Victor Ambrus 2100
3. **SUE FANCASUE** by Mike McInerney 00
4. **THE VIEW FROM CASTLE ROCK** by Alice Munro 4100
5. **THE LAW OF DREAMS** by Peter Beltrami 00
6. **LESTY'S STORY** by Robert King 00
7. **THE LAW OF THE LAND** by Richard Ford 610
8. **WHAT CAME BEFORE HE SHOT HER** by Donald Stewart 710
9. **ABOUT THE GAP** by Thomas F. Johnson 910
10. **DENVER'S DANCE** by David Hogg 1010

#### Non-Fiction

1. **THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE THUNDERBOLT KID** by Sir Bruce 010
2. **WISDOM IN CHINA** by Margaret Hsiao-Hsien 100
3. **THE WASHINGTON SHARPS** by Robert G. Allen 010
4. **THE LIFE OF YOUR BRAIN ON MUSIC** by Daniel Levitin 010
5. **THE UPSIDE OF DOWN** by Thomas H. Davenport 010
6. **CONRAD & LADY BLACK** by Tom Bowler 010
7. **THE GOD DELUSION** by Richard Dawkins 010
8. **RIGHT SIDE UP** by Paul Wells 010
9. **AMERICA ALONE** by Alan Cooper 010
10. **KING'S COUNSELLOR** by Tommy Louch 710





CRISPY CONES should be in places like New York, Miami and Las Vegas by the end of 2007, and in Canadian cities after that.

## A double scoop of meatballs please

The latest twist in fast food is the cone, filled with anything you like, from salad to s'mores

**BY GARY GOLLA** • Ingegnere, says Nir Adar, "every food you love is a cone." Making meatballs, sweet tomato sauce and spicy pepperoni. Meatballs. Chicken teriyaki. To order: tomato sauce, crunchy coleslaw and a creamy dressing. Scrambled eggs and smoky ham. "Take the cone to a place where it is a vessel that can change your life, and make it easy," says Adar, 46, a professional chef and food stylist in New York.

Such a proposal could come only from the founder of a company planning to revolutionize fast food, a US\$173 billion industry this year, according to Technomic, a market research firm in Chicago. Adar's Crispy Cones restaurants—only one location inside a Phoenix shopping mall so far—are based on the concept that food doesn't have to wait out on the go: the most convenient, innovative and environmentally friendly option for busy consumers. "Everybody's looking for something different, and that's the other. This fits perfectly," he says.

Judging by the rise of similar enterprises lately, Adar is right. A China Cafe website promises to serve "a scoop of Chinese food on specially prepared rice in an edible wrapper." No fat, no mess. MSG optional? Cornitos, based in India, offers what it calls "no mess, no fuss" in a variety of flavors including "spicy Yaggle," Peanut Tikka and Korma sauce. Korma offers Cone Pizzas, Turkey Hot Korma! Pizza, and Italy's Korigato has spread to the U.K., Russia, Spain, Germany, Greece, Kuwait, South Korea, Indonesia, New Zealand and Australia. Adar, who hopes to open 10 Crispy Cones outside the end of 2007 in urban centers such as New York, Miami and Las Vegas, and eventually Canadian cities, calls his competitors' products "tip-offs,"

and insists, "This is a money I earned." The first cone restaurants might have been invented by brothers Charles Robert and Frank Menches, who apparently ran out of dishes at the 1994 World's Fair in St. Louis, Mo., and substituted waffles from a nearby vendor. Others say the inventor was Ernest A. Benzel, a pastry chef from Syria who at the fair, who often called up cakehouse orders to ice cream vendors. Benzel's son, David Anayou of Turkey at Abu Doumar from Lebanon or Steve Sullivan from Sullivan, Mo., as the creator of what used to be called the "cornucopia" or "cornet." But most say the inventor was Italo Marchiony, an Italian who supposedly began selling ice cream in cones on Wall Street in 1884. In fact, he was granted the cone model patent in 1903.

Adar, whose cones are generally chicken, daughter and more recently, then traditional ice cream cones, says he was granted the U.S. trademark for his products under the name "Pizzaccone" and "Coneopia" nine months before his competitors' creations appeared on the market. (Adar plans to use this name for the frozen cones he's peddling to supermarkets, and will keep the Crispy Cones tag for his shops.) He claims that the Korean operation was born out of meetings he had with Italian executives in 2002 to try to develop a product. "It's a capitalist

world," Adar says. "This is such a simple idea. Everybody thought, how come I didn't think of this before?"

Simple, but not easy. The recipe for making and selling cones comes shared California-based Tacos, whose menu now features quail, tilapia, waffles, soups, salads and sandwiches. "It turned out to be a bit messy and impractical, so we stopped selling those unique cones, but the recipe that inspired us stuck," the company website explains. Successful cone businesses have invented unique machines and complex ingredient formulas to guarantee the cones are crispy, fluffy and, of course, drip proof for people eating on the run. "It's one of the only foods that's come around that really addresses our social behavior of being on the go," says Adar. It's also more environmentally friendly than most fast food because the cones don't require producing plastic cups or bowls. Could there be a healthy, too? "That depends on what's considered healthy," says Adar, explaining that a Crispy Cone cone, which comes in varieties including granola, whole wheat, raisin, garlic and onion, has calories between 10 and 150 calories, plus the food inside.

One cone-mechanics customer never finds an issue of new cones is that cool classic that made the cone possible in the first place: "Ice cream makes me feel in a cone, of course. But right now we need to separate ourselves from the ice cream," says Adar. So what's for dessert? "We have a variety of cones that we offer." ■



### TODAY'S SPECIAL: LASERED WINE

As a leading practitioner of "molecular gastronomy," which calls for manipulating flavors using techniques developed in chemistry, Chicago chef Homaro Cantu has created a recipe for "lasered wine." It calls for clamping a variable beam inside an inverted wine glass, then pouring the beer with a "laser-fl" laser. The resulting caramelized vapour coats the wine glass, into which Cantu pours red wine.



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DEXA

EJECTIONS OF FAT-MELTING CHEMICALS take inches off, but side effects include vomiting, seizures and lumps under the skin

## The no-effort dashboard stomach

More and more Canadians are opting for a controversial treatment for losing weight

**BY ALEXANDRA SHIMO** • It took about 120 tiny piggybacks to create Nicole March's toned, washboard stomach. That and \$1,000 and eight sessions at a plastic surgeon's office. The fat-reducing injections were so successful, she went back and had her rear done too. March, 37, is one of a growing number of Canadians—and most are women—opting for this cutting-edge treatment. The procedure is so revolutionary as it is simple: the fatty acid injections are injected with a chemical—either phosphatidylcholine deoxycholate (PDC) or deoxycholate (DC)—directly into the layer of fat and connective tissue under the skin. And, voila, the patient returns home, or back to work, and the shrinkage begins (the exact is worked by the kidneys). “There was no pain whatsoever,” March explains from her home in Mississauga, Ont. “I wanted to tighten my stomach to get rid of the red and white stretch marks, which I got from having kids. I lost 2 inches [5.3 cm] from my stomach, and the same from my rear.” The average reduction, says Dr. Stephen McHolland, the Toronto plastic surgeon who treated March, is 5.5 cm in the stomach and 4.1 cm for the thighs.

Macotherapy was developed in Europe and became popular in South America in the late 1990s. It took off in Brazil, where some it wasn't just doctors injecting patients, but beauty technicians and massage therapists. Concern over the uncontrolled use, and lack of research on long-term side effects, caused the Brazilian government to ban its use in 2003. In Canada, the growth of the procedure has also been rapid. Fat-reducing injections are done in every major city in Canada, says McHolland, who also trains other doctors in the technique—on average, 10 to 40 doctors take

his courses every month. In the U.S., there's one company offering the procedure, Advanced Liposol Double Contour, has treated more than 30,000 patients since opening its doors in September 2005. “There is a 96 per cent success rate at melting fat,” says McHolland from his Toronto clinic, SpasMedica. “All the studies show this procedure is entirely safe.”

But most of the studies, says Dr. Alan Macnassar, a clinical professor of plastic surgery at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and president of the New York Regional Society of Plastic Surgeons, examine a handful of patients over a period of a few weeks or months. Macnassar, who published an article warning all the scientific research on the subject in the journal of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons in April 2005, adds that there haven't yet been any studies looking at the long-term effects of macotherapy. [The known side effects, says McHolland, include bruising, redness and local swelling. For a few patients, the fat does not dissolve, but forms a palpable lump under the skin. Some patients who have been injected with PDC, McHolland adds, have reported nausea, vomiting and seizures.]

Neither of the two substances has been recognized by Health Canada for use in fat-reducing injections. Since it does not regulate off-label use of drugs, there are no official

guidelines on dosage or possible side effects. DC is an approved substance—in Anaphrotonol, a treatment for fungal infections, and in doses 1,000 times less potent. In the U.S., the Food and Drug Administration has taken a harder line, sending out warning letters to companies using the off-label drugs, ordering them to stop injecting patients immediately.

For these reasons, some doctors are highly critical of the procedure. “There is almost no scientific data to support almost any of the claims that are made for macotherapy,” says Dr. Rod Rabinich, past president of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons and chairman of the department of plastic surgery at the University of Texas. “It's bordering on human experimentation.” McHolland agrees. “The same reason we suspend all testing when we talk about fat. If I gave you a pill for pneumonia and I told you I didn't know the correct dose, side effects, long-term results, you'd be suicidal.”

March says she hasn't really given much thought to long-term effects. “In these matters you are your own worst critic, and it is really helpful. It's all about the results.” March's attitude is precisely the reason the therapy has taken off, Macnassar says. “Everyone wants something easy for fat. And people would prefer a non-surgical to a surgical solution. So when you put all these things together it's a perfect marriage. The problem is there are very few scientific studies on this. There are a lot of unknowns.” ■



### WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT: R2D2'S HEAD

Apart from Yoda, the most enviable “character” in the Star Wars series was that whirling little robot on hardware cart. But apparently R2D2 has enough here that an alloy section of its head warrants a US\$600,000 salvage bid. The head will contain original fibre optics used to manipulate it. Although discarded after a few films because it was worn out, the head was rescued from a dumpster along with an unwanted Naboo fighter.





MUSIC

## PULP FREE

Decade of *Covers* People, the clean warbler single that has become a staple during rainy nights and been covered by Wilco, Shiner, and other Pulp covers has permeated front rows more given much thought by North Americans. But in England, Jerry Cocker was no one-bit wonder—he was a revered songwriter, at least among those who came of age in the 1960s and wanted something a little better.

When Pulp was in its heyday (1995's *A Different Class*), it found vicious social commentary with the melodic sense of its Brit-pop contemporaries—music for outsiders that could still be played at a party. As Cocker's songwriting interestingly struggled to strike that balance, his band fell off the map. But now, having spent a few years in France receding from his sobriety, he has rediscovered it.

The first live track on Cocker's solo debut, *Jerry's*, are the purest pop he's released in years. Then the disc takes a sudden dark turn with "I Will Kill Again," and Cocker is up to his old tricks, taking aim at poppy dancers and his own, all under the guise of coterminous poppy ballads and measured guitar rock. None of it quite as amusing—or perhaps—in the album's hidden track, that stirring *Swimming the World*. But from the vibrant *For Children* to the cynical *Disney Town* to the world-weary *From A to I*, Cocker's narratives are so sharp and firm might wonder why it took so long for him to make something this good. For North Americans, it's his second chance to get on the boat we missed the first time. Adam Radwanski

BOOKS

## POETRY FOR THE CHIRPING CLASSES

Toronto's Mark Taper has packed his debut, *Every Inappropriate Name*, with Radwanski and pop-wee football references, while sardonic pinching you with matters of the heart. In *Seriously*, it

was the Rigger Cocker, the poor protagonist goes from a child gawking at girly magazines, to that first heterosexual encounter, to finding the "real" thing and then doubting it, until a "really insane crisis" puts everything into perspective. *Seriously*, it was the best poem. Shanda Dietel

**PURE POP** On his solo debut, Cocker is back to his old tricks

BOOKS

## MORE HEARTBREAK, MORE GENIUS

Dave Eggers' new novel, *What Is the What*, follows one of the parents: Lou Royce of Sudan, Valentino Achak Deng, as he reaches thousands of refugees and war before later settling in Atlanta. The book accomplishes what reads Eggers' debut, *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, so effectively—it's a slightly fictionalized true story of an orphan childhood and suffering told through a wise-beyond-his-years character who defies the horrors of life and violence on. *Calvin Campbell*



DVD

## WHEN MOON WAS STILL RISING

Why watch this re-released DVD of *The War Lane at the Isle of Wight Festival 1970*? Because Keith Moon. The band's failed drummer died in 1978, blown and added by drugs and alcohol. But in this performance from Aug. 30, 1970, just a year after the



What's less than a year after Woodstock, he is misbehaving. The rest of the band hold their own, but it's Moon, music and right at the same time, who can make you overlook how off the mark parts of Pete Townshend's rock opera *Tommy* really were. *Peter Radwanski*

EXHIBIT

## PABLO'S POP ART

The brilliance of a current exhibit at New York City's Whitney Museum illustrating how Picasso created the visual vocabulary for 20th-century art is its originality. The very cleverly curated show, which runs until Jan. 24, juxtaposes Picasso's work with that of a diverse group of artists—among them Max Weber, André Gide, Willem de Kooning, Jackson Pollock, Andy



WINE

Wine, Roy Lichtenstein, and Jasper Johns—toproduce an exhilarating glimpse into artists' inspiration and fresh context for appreciation. *Aimee Koppelman*

WINE

## LOCK THIS ONE UP—FAST

California made this House Bill 2004 (SB 95) is a good for the region because it's composed of a variety of Italian grapes (including Sangiovese and Barbera), but it's less juicy and more acidic than other Italian wines. More important for those who take a light-hearted approach to oenology,

it has the best label on the market: a cartoon of the house throwing gangsters spending time in jail after a prison break, while the product info on the back appears in cut-out letters, like a ransom note. *Heather Emerson may take longer to get the pun in the title. Charlie Galar*

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# NEWS MAKERS 2006



**SECTION BY KATE FILLION AND PATRICIA TREBLE** With help from Martin Fessenden,  
Barbara Kline, Janet Mitchell, Clint McLean, Shanda Smith, John Smith, Steve Smith and Maclean's staff.



## FOR COURAGE AND SACRIFICE IN THE FACE OF TERRIFYING COMBAT, MACLEAN'S HONOURS THE CANADIAN SOLDIER

BY MICHAEL FRISCOLANTE •

Late 11 a.m., Sgt. Patrick Tower understands why he is suddenly such a popular person. Six weeks ago, without any warning, the military he has served for 16 years nominated him for a Star of Military Valour—a literary decoration second only to the prestigious Victoria Cross. In a man's honor. So man, in fact, that the 34-year-old infantryman now belongs to a club of his own. No other Canadian soldier has ever earned the award.

Necessity to say, his inbox is overflowing these days with congratulatory emails—mostly from strangers—and everywhere he goes, soldiers and civilians alike want to shake his hand. Today, as Tower gets a report at the side of a tank. Garysio, a young subordinate working in the Indian mailroom hasn't like a letter. It is from the lieutenant governor of British Columbia, his home province. "Wow," he says, opening the yellow envelope. "Now that's first."

Tower is not the type to boast. You won't see him passing that note around the barracks. If anything, he seems slightly uncomfortable with all the attention, especially the photographer snapping away in dozens of fellow troops look on. "Another photo, eh, Sarge?" one soldier jokes. "He's a handsome one, isn't he?" quips another. There, dozens in green army fatigues and marching boots, men with grins.

Some of the soldiers were with him that summer morning at the

Panjkai district of Afghanistan. Those who weren't have nonetheless read the stories that accompanied his award. "Following an enemy strike against an outlying friendly position that resulted in numerous casualties, Sergeant Tower accepted the platoon motto and a third soldier killed them some 215 m of open terrain, under heavy enemy fire, to render assistance," it reads. "On learning that the sitting platoon commander had perished, Sgt. Tower assumed command and led the successful execution of the first under continuous small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire. Sgt. Tower's courage and selfless devotion to duty contributed directly to the survival of the remaining platoon members."

Tower puts it another way. "I was just doing my job," he says. "It's what had to be done."

Every day for the past year, Canadian soldiers have been doing just that. What has to be done. Thousands have served with courage and tenacity—on the front lines of Afghanistan, bearing the brunt of Canada's war in terror. Right now, dozens of allied countries have troops operating in and around Taliban-controlled, but not yet fully controlled, heavy fighting—or combat—however losses—than Canada

Consider this: between 2001 and 2005, eight Canadian soldiers fell home in olive, flag-draped coffins. This year alone, the number is 36 and counting.

The enemy is dying, too. Hundreds of them. There was a fire, even after 9/11, when the Canadian Forces were asked to advise that their troops might actually shoot people. Not anymore. Over the past 12 months, Canadians have endured hours of terrifying combat not seen by this country in two generations. The mission has no detectors—the latest public opinion poll says 61 per cent of Canadians oppose sending soldiers to Afghanistan—but the grunts themselves have never been more popular. Every person in uniform, from sniper to recruiter to medic, will tell you the same thing: I can't walk into a Tim's Home without somebody saying thanks. Indeed, 2006 belonged to the Canadian soldier.

"We got our orders this night," Tower recalls, "and we pulled out around 2 or 3:30 in the morning." It was Aug. 3, and he and the rest of the 1st Battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry had been stationed in Kandahar for nearly six months. In a few weeks, they'd be heading home.

Charlie Company's objective that morning was to locate a small

white school near the volatile village of Paktika, where hundreds of Taliban fighters were waiting and watching. Hidden by the early morning darkness, a Canadian convoy of seven armoured vehicles led Patrol Base Wilson and headed west on Highway 1—"Ambush Alley" as it is known to the troops. The mission was barely an hour old when an IED—an improvised explosive device—tore into one of the LAVs, killing Cpl. Christopher Reed, a 34-year-old Nova Scotia. Medics scrambled to apply first aid, but there was little they could do. "Because of the threat of more IEDs on the route to the objective area, the decision was made to go in dismounted," Tower says.

Patrol Base commander was also injured in the LAV blast, so Sgt. Vaughn Ingram stepped the lead, directing two sections of troops—about 20 men—toward the school on foot. Their target was almost a kilometre away. "By now, the heat was becoming a problem," Tower recalls. "The first IED strike was around 4:15 in the morning, and from that time we were just running around like crazy, doing different things. So now it's probably noon or one o'clock in the afternoon. It's hot and the troops are really starting to succumb to the heat." Tower, now sitting in the platoon's second-in-command, helped a few weary comrades back to the convoy, crawling the entire way to avoid being hit. "We were taking quite a bit of fire

### \* THE NEWSMAKER \* OF THE YEAR

by this time," he says, in typical understatement.

His comrades inside the school were also under intense attack, a steady barrage of bullets and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) spewing from nearly every direction. Word soon filtered back that the platoon was pulling out. "Too many lost casualties. But before they had achieved so much, an RPG grounded the building where Tower's friends were held up. The radio crackled again. "We have a lot of wounded up here!" a voice said. Without hesitation or cover, Tower grabbed a medkit and another soldier and headed straight toward the school, sprinting through 150 m of open terrain and over myopia. A bullet ripped through one of the main entrance porches. "I tried not to think about getting killed," Tower says. "All I know is that there were a lot of people shooting, and when we ran across that field it was just wide open."

It wasn't long before he saw the bodies. Three soldiers—Sgt. Rogers, Cpl. Bryce Sellers and Pfc Kevin Dalkum—didn't survive the explosion. Tower started in one of the corpses for a moment, but not for long. "In the military, it's the mission is first," he says. "Yes, there are these guys dead, but there are all those other guys who are still alive and looking at you for direction. So the medic started working on the casualties and I just went to one of the buildings to make sure the other soldiers could give us some cover fire." Nine troops were wounded, some severely by the as Taliban fighters continued their assault. The Canadians—exhausted, outnumbered and nearly surrounded—fought back. Tower spent most of his time ducking between the school and a small building nearby, making sure his soldiers didn't let up. They never did, reportedly killing dozens of men on the other side. Two LAs eventually rescued the survivors, entering through a maze of land mines to reach the school. "The best thing I heard all day was when those LAs showed up," Tower says, smiling. "Once



**'A LOT OF BAD THINGS HAPPENED, BUT ALSO A LOT OF GOOD THINGS'**  
—SGT. PATRICK TOWER



Sgt. Patrick Tower was the first soldier to see the job that was done

know that I knew we were going to be okay."

Recounting the events four months later, Tower sounds like a man disavowing what he saw for breakfast. He is humble and hesitant, as if everything dawns through memory like a new dawn to save a life. He says absolutely nothing that might boost his own legend, answering every question with a lead-in to somebody else. The badly wounded corporal who laid down cover fire. The medic who saved from casualty to casualty. The LA driver who rushed to the rescue. The medic who died. "It was a shitty day, but I saw so many things that made me so proud of the soldiers that I led them," he says. "You see these troops, and they're sleeping, 18, 20, 30, 35-year-olds. And they are doing these amazing things and sometimes you're not taking it in. It adds my troops the day it happened." A lot of bad things happened today, but also a lot of good things.

Today, Tower is back to his pre-deployment routine, reporting for duty every morning at the 1st Battalion headquarters, where he spends most of his time teaching young troops the ways of the LAF. In the new year (a date he has been successful), he'll head to Helmand, where Michael Jean, the Governor General, will officially present him with his four-pointed gold Star (three other soldiers—Sgt. Michael Demko, Master Cpl. Colin Fitzgerald and Pfc Jason Lamont—will also be in Ottawa to receive the Medal of Military Merit, a designation one notch below the Star).

Tower, however, is focused on another date: February 2008. That is when he and more than 2,000 other men and women will fly back to Afghanistan. His birthday is set for scheduled deployment, but he values more to fill a gap with an other battle group that is short a few soldiers. "This is what we do," he says. "You make other things and be part of the fight. Every one of the soldiers believes in this mission, and everyone is there doing a job they love. They are not veterans, by any means."

THE WEEKEND



**'NO COUNTRY IN EUROPE HAS SCREWED UP AS MUCH AS WE HAVE... WE LIED MORNING, NOON AND NIGHT'**  
—Hungarian PM **Ferenc Gyurcsany**, in a speech to his Socialist party that was later leaked to the press

**'He turned out to be a strong man, [he] raped 10 women... we all envy him!'**

—Russian President **Vladimir Putin** saluting Israeli President **Moshe Katsav**, after police announced there were sufficient grounds to charge him with rape

**'I LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE TRUTH DOESN'T MATTER, AND FOR THAT I AM DEEPLY SORRY'**

—**Oprah Winfrey**, apologizing for saying she wasn't troubled by the falsehoods peppering 'A Million Little Pieces,' author **James Frey's** heavily embellished 'memoir' of his drug addiction



**'THERE'S A PART OF MY LIFE THAT IS SO REPULSIVE AND DARK THAT I HAVE BEEN WARRING AGAINST IT FOR ALL OF MY ADULT LIFE'**

—U.S. evangelist **Ted Haggard**, after a former male prostitute accused him of buying crystal meth and having gay sex



**'THE SONG PRETTY WELL FOLLOWS THE TITLE, JUST WITH A BUNCH OF REASONS. IT'S A LONG SONG.'** —Rockers **Neil Young** on his new song 'Let's Impeach the President'



—Virginia Governor **Tim Kaine** belatedly pardoning **Grace Sherwood**, convicted of witchcraft in 1706 because she floated when tossed into a river

**'WITH 300 YEARS OF HINDSIGHT, WE ALL CERTAINLY CAN AGREE THAT TRIAL BY WATER IS AN INJUSTICE'**



**'They were right about [us] not having a plan'**



—former premier **Ralph Klein**, responding to opposition criticism over his handling of Alberta's economic boom

PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG RILAND. AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHY (TOP)



**GONKOMEZZA RICCIARDI  
PETER MACKAY**

Just one look, that's all it took for asperses on both sides of the border to crick the chemistry between the U.S. secretary of state, FL, and Canada's minister of foreign affairs, 41. The two spent the fifth anniversary of Sept. 11 toasting around the waterfront in Picou, N.S., gazing from east to east. The New York Times praised his "hudd" and CP called her "elegant." It was less while it lasted.

**MICHELLE KIRMAN AND  
KEITH URBAN**

They met in January 2005, married in June '06, and he checked into Betty Ford in October. Both are 39-year-old Texans, but they seemed an odd match from the get-go: she is a willowy, ethereal Oscar-winner who's made some deadly-sinister choices recently, he has a proclivity for grunge, posing nude and freckling. Worse, the country singer is almost as short as Peter Cruise.

**FAIRMONT HOTELS AND  
A SAUDI PRINCE**

Saudi Arabia's Prince Alwaleed bin Talal bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud acquired the Toronto-based Fairmont hotel chain, which originates from like the Citigroup franchise, for a mere US\$1.9 billion. Alwaleed's fellow prince, Bill Gates, has plans to acquire the Four Seasons chain, another Canadian icon. What's next? Microsoft's Comfort Inn?

**MATTHEW MCCONAGHEY  
AND LANCE ARMSTRONG**

Breaking Away racers. Endorhach. Mountain. Racers. But Matthew McConaughey and Lance Armstrong are lovers, not rivals, by blood, sweet athletic pursuits, shopping trips and open races from Malibu to Miami last year (occasionally with Jake Gyllenhaal hanging up the rear). There are pet names—"Lancey" for Lance, "the Backstreet Budd" for McConaughey—but the pair deny any hot romance. "We all have buds," Armstrong explained. "We all take guy trips." Gyllenhaal, wisely, said nothing.

**\* MERGERS \***


**'THERE WERE NO  
CANDLES'—STATE DEPT.  
SPOKESMAN ON THE  
RICE/MACKAY DINNER**

**JERRY ZUCKER AND  
THE BAY**

After 18 months of trying, South Carolina businessman Jerry Zucker bought Canada's landmark Hudson's Bay Co.—complete with a 136-year-old heritage of explorers, luxurious beaver pelts and signature striped blazers—for \$1.35 a share. Most Canadians shrugged, en route to Wal-Mart.

**JOHN STAMOS AND 'N'**

NBC was getting ready to pull the plug on its superannuated medical show, but its intrepid John Stamos, half of *Anchorman*, retooled into a fellowable George Clooney-esque conf. He'll be! Stamos refused to surrender the network, and NBC's newest doc has single-handedly rejuvenated the show.

**ALBERTA AND B.C.**

In April, Alberta and B.C. agreed to drop their interprovincial trade barriers and recognize each other's standards as more than 60 professions, saving billions and adding maybe 30,000 new jobs. The new pact is named TILMA (for the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement), but it could just as easily be called EPMOD (Eat Your Heart Out, Ontario).

**AFRIL LAWRENCE AND  
DEBYN WHEATLEY**

The first trans pride of Nigeria and the April bridegroom tied the knot in the most traditional of venues: for Ontario musician, northern California. She walked down the aisle in Daddy's arms, wearing a white Vera Wang gown to often, her badly bleached locks. Dantes that style!

**KRYLATZ AND FALCON-  
BRIDGE, UNCO AND CND**

Mining merger rumors, not always pretty, not always nice, and virtually impossible to follow. Two wanted Falconbridge, but Swiss mining company Xstrata got it in a hostile \$16.1-billion all-cash takeover. Then Compaq's Vale do Rio Doce of Brazil snatched Inco for \$18 billion. Bye-bye, Canadian \$16.1.

## JIM BALELLE AND THE PITTSBURGH PENNSYLVANIAN

The sad-sack NEIL, now wobbling through two decades of bad luck, has been back-to-back Stanley Cup wins in 1991 and '92. But the Pens were always dogged by money problems. In October, a baffling interview appeared in the form of Jim Ballele, the 45-year-old chairman and co-CEO of Rausach in Monaco, the Waterloo, Ont.-based company behind the BlackBerry. Ballele plucked down US\$175 million and promised to remove the team out of the aging Mellon Arena, although just how far away is a matter of debate. Hamilton, perhaps?

## THE '90s AND PEOPLE WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER

We thought the essence of the 1990s—cramped jeans, baggies, Cyndi Lauper—had been successfully thrown on the fire of oblivion, but no. Fashion clothes and techno music are back to remind everyone of a painful decade when men looked like Aerosmith and women looked just like Aerosmith.

## GOOGLE AND YOUTUBE

Search king Google bought improbable online video sharing site YouTube for US\$1.65 billion in stock, no doubt planning to plaster commercials all over the home movies. Two problems: YouTube's ad campaign starts up images went pool-smelted oceans of cash, and Google might have to pay the paper for all of YouTube's previously ignored copyright infringement.

## LECH AND JAROSLAW SACEWICZ

In his old job as mayor of Warsaw, former child movie star Lech banned gay juveniles and tried to push the homeless off to the "barbs." But as president, tough-talking Lech has faced down not only corruption scandals and political troubles—his conservatives took a hit in local elections in November—but nasty talk from everyone from the secret service to former prez Lech Walusa that his tiny town, the P.M. is light in the loofah.

## ★ MERGERS ★



The Beatles and Cirque du Soleil

The Nile had '90s fashion victims

The Polish Internet and music industry

Google and YouTube

## CIRQUE DU SOLEIL AND THE BEATLES

The famously regal circus troupe, living a couple of Vegas excess, took on the Beatles' Beatles Live, the show was reportedly cooked up in 2000 by Cirque pool/shoot Guy Laliberté and Beatles guitarist George Harrison during one of Laliberté's decades-in-the-act in his Montreal-area spread. Beatles producer George Martin snatched up chance for the soundtrack, proving once again that nothing is sacred—especially in Vegas.

## BILL GLOBERHEIDA AND CHINA

In the it's-hard-to-tell-the-play-er-when-a-program-departments, Bill Globerheida (owner of CTV, TSN, Discovery, the Globe and Mail and part-owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs, the Raptors and the Air Canada Centre) had \$1.7 billion for CHUM Ltd. (owner of CTV, Bravo, MuchMusic and Space). The CRT has yet to rule on the merger splash.

## LISA MARIE PRESLEY AND MICHAEL LOCKWOOD

Elvis's daughter walked down the aisle for the fourth time in January, wedding the producer of her godawful 2005 CD. For some reason they tied the knot in Kyoto, Japan, with Presley's film hubby serving as best man. The mother of the bride wore a black lemons, possibly to coordinate with the groom's black lemons. For the first time in years, Lisa Marie was photographed smiling. No photo this one will last.

## ROBERTO LUONGO AND THE VANCOUVER CANUCKS

The Vancouver Canucks pulled three long-standing goaltending problems last summer by signing Roberto Luongo to a four-year US\$47-million deal. You had about the rest of the team. While the Montreal native has lived up to his plus billing, posting team records in NHL goals and starting in all but one game, the Canucks have the league's least productive offense and have left Luongo to steer a winning record all on his own.

## WHICH SHIFT IN STAGES

'THIS IS GREAT, TWO KINGS HAVE GOTTEN TOGETHER'—YOUTUBE'S CHAD HURLEY

★ BREAKUPS ★

**ETHELBERG DELANEY AND COLLETTA**

When the CEO abruptly quit the Toronto-based electronics manufacturer after less than three years on the job, the timing seemed odd. Why walk when a lucrative retooling was ending? What month, the mystery was solved: Colletta missed its fourth quarter sales and profit numbers by a mile, after ordering way too many parts for a plant in Mexico, and share prices plunged... again.

**DAVID EMERSON AND THE LIBERALS**

After a landslide victory in Vancouver Kingsway as a Liberal, Emerson signed on as Harper's new minister for international trade and the Vancouver Olympics. He did it to serve his constituents better, he disclosed, right before his nose grew an itchin'.

**PAUL MCCARTNEY AND HEATHER MILLS**

Their four-year union ended in May, two months after the pair struggled with trapezioid tears on the frigid ice on the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Mitchell's a three-day match with the Newfoundland jockey on Larry King Live. McCarney, 64, has reportedly called the 38-year-old ex-model a gold digger. Um, what gave it away?

**NEIL SMITH AND THE NEW YORK ISLANDERS**

Less than six weeks after being hired as GM of the scoring Islanders, front-office veteran Smith was fired. "Physiological differences," said team owner Charles Wang, who rattled back up goalie Garth Snow in the triple, then signed overlander Rick DiPietro, 24, with eye popping 19 years, US\$67.9 million contract.

**WHITNEY HOUSTON AND ROBERT BROWN**

After 14 years of his-and-hers drugs, booze and rehab, the devoted songbird ditched the rapper. Houston has six Grammy awards and 11 No. 1 songs to her name, but not much else. The Atlanta marital home was auctioned off when she couldn't get to pay the mortgage.



**'I'LL KILL THE BITCH'  
—STELLA MCCARTNEY  
ON HER STEPMOTHER,  
HEATHER MILLS**

**LI KA SHING AND RICHARD LI**  
Nothing breaks a family like a five-billion-dollar *Wharfedale* (nicknamed: Superman) sued to buy a stake in Hong Kong's biggest telecom company from his son (nicknamed: Little Superman), a swimming family feud boiled away soon told Dad to take a hike. Dad got mad. Lawyers got rich. Friendly family dinners are history.

**LLOYD KIBLER AND MARCIA GREEN**

The oneworld pairs figure skating champ ditched his pregnant wife for Kirsty Swanson, a Playboy model and his on-ice partner on *Shining with Celebrities*. Then Skate Canada suspended Kibler from coaching, allegedly because of relationship with skating girls. Talk about hot sex.

**CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD AND ITS MONOPOLY**

When in Canada's matters into crop. Some 55 per cent of a grows in the Prairie provinces where, since the 1930s, the Canadian Wheat Board has been the sole purveyor of harvested abroad. Stephen Harper says no more monopoly; farmers can sell on their own. Separating the Board from the wheat set off a cloud of dust, and—well, you get the idea.

**DON MATTHEWS AND THE MONTREAL ALBERTY**

The CFL's winningest coach unexpectedly left the team—consistently over unspecified health problems. Many wondered if he was forced out, especially after the run-off by his old ally team president Larry Smith. "The relationship has officially ended."

**BREITNEY SPEARS AND KEVIN FEDERLINE**

Oops, she did it again. The 23-year-old ditched her second husband, slightly fertile gold digger, reportedly by text message—surprisingly indirect familiarity with the written word. The self-styled "jump" is soldiering back to obscurity, while she parties with Paris Hilton. Wonder who should get custody of their two kids?

**LIKE THIS.**



## ★ CELEBRITY ★ ENDORSEMENTS

Every celebrity will still do something, if the pay is right. (via Don Cherry and Colditz). But a select few became so emblematic of a cause that their endorsement comes with nothing. Think of Dick Cheney,

promoting gun control (why else do you think he shot his buddy in the face?). Zinedine Zidane, plumping for soccer helmets. Kate Moss pushing the current-unhappiness properties of white pow-

der. And, Kevin Federline campaigning for birth control (or at least an over-the-counter pill that makes patching for the cause of deep, lasting friendships). Michael Richards cried out for racial tolerance, Martin Hall Pandey campaigned for housing, Venezuela's deposed president pleaded to save imperishable books from the remainder bin.

And Republican congressman Mark Foley sent kind messages to young male pages to demonstrate the many uses of a 704A. Here it is, the New City, and Cop boys lobbied for bilingualism. Football great Rocky Williams went to the mat for you, and Cindy Crawford is at long last bringing back the gold standard. Now that's the kind of endorsement we'd pay for.



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SHIFT shifting

# 'WE SHOWED HOCKEY CANADA IS DOMINANT'

## —DANIELLE GOYETTE, AFTER WINNING GOLD

### \* WINNERS \*

#### HARREN BUFFET

The second richest man in the world is making good on his long-time promise to not pass all his worldly goods to his kids. It's going 99 percent of his US\$46-billion fortune to charity—mostly to the Gates Foundation, run by the world's richest man and his wife. But the catch comes with a catch: He wants all of it to be distributed as the year it's donated. The windfall earmarked for Bill and Melinda's charity will be spent on a search for cures to childhood diseases and used to improve the American education system. After the announcement, Bill Gates said, "There is no reason we can't cure the top 20 diseases." Turns out the 71-year-old Oracle of Omaha's record-setting generosity has triggered a philanthropic ripple effect among the obscenely rich, who now the Virgin empire, has pledged US\$1 billion over the next 10 years to combat global warming. The moguls won't go to charities, but into developing sustainable energy, such as biofuels.

#### WOMEN'S OLYMPIC HOCKEY TEAM

While the Canadian men's hockey team failed over to get near the podium in Turin, the women's Olympic club totally dominated from the first round, successfully defending their gold medal win of four years ago. Guided by tournament MVP Hayley Wickenheiser, who led all players with 17 points deeper in the game in her career, Team Canada's record of 6-1 in the final (for the first time in nine world championships) and three Olympics, Canada did not play the U.S. (for gold). Overall, the team outscored opponents by a record-setting tally of 66-2. "These women are the Canadian flag on every part of their bodies," said Team Canada's head coach Melody Davidson. "Everybody has to be proud of them, and nobody should question them." The heart and soul of the team, Danielle Goyette, also holds the flag during the Games' opening ceremonies. She'll only just turned 40, but was her last Olympics.

#### ROGER FEDERER

About a decade from now, Roger Federer will likely retire from tennis as the greatest ever male player. Until then, the 25-year-old master of the baseline will keep winning titles, including recent play on the tour. The Swiss has already dominated in 2006, winning his fourth straight Wimbledon title and his second consecutive U.S. Open. His only real competition in the world's No. 1, Rafael Nadal, a 20-year-old, hard-hitting Spaniard who beat Federer at the French Open final, the only Grand Slam that still studies the Swiss player. Federer, who was named a Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF this year, will surpass Jimmy Connors' record of 160 consecutive weeks as No. 1 on Feb. 16—Federer is so far ahead in the rankings that he can do it with out even setting foot on a tennis court.

#### MUHAMMAD YUNUS

Bangladesh's reformed Muhammad Yunus, who pioneered the microcredit strategy of lending to the poor, was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize. Microcredit financing helps poor people get access to small loans to start their own businesses, without a down payment or good credit history. The Grameen Bank—which shared the Nobel prize—was founded by Yunus in 1976 with \$27 in the bank. It now boasts 6.6 million borrowers in 70,000 Bangladeshi villages, the average loan is \$127, and 97 percent of borrowers are women. "A woman, when she brings on some income, the immediate beneficiary of the income becomes the children, and the second priority the woman has the household," says Yunus. "She wants to buy a few utensils, she wants to improve the living conditions, and she wants to put a little money aside on the top. [A woman] does not only today, but next year and next." By the way, Grameen's repayment rate is the envy of the banking world.

## LEVERAGING THE POWER OF DATA

Savvy Companies Use Data to Change Customer Behaviour

By Rick Ferguson

When COLLOQUY® looks at the future of loyalty marketing and the trends that will shape our space, we see boundaries that will continue to expand outward. The key to this next stage of evolution will be leveraging the power of customer data. Data-driven companies will look beyond loyalty program return-on-investment (ROI) metrics and discover that the true value of data lies in its ability to fundamentally transform the customer experience by driving insight and benefit back into the core business model. Personally in the retail space, loyalty programs will play a pivotal role in the ability to identify customers and harness data to change how they shop, how they experience the store and what experiences access to them.

We've seen evidence that customer data is driving the core business models of a handful of companies that understand how the customer experience drives their success. Examples include:

#### AIR MILES® Rewards Program

In Canada, the AIR MILES Rewards Program has motivated both independent retailers and franchisees for one of its grocery partners by offering SKU level data from the retailer with AIR MILES Collector information to identify targets for marketing. In addition, AIR MILES has worked with a leading pharmacy retailer to revamp the company's flyer distribution strategy. By leveraging Collector data with store locations, demographics and forward position area (FSA) boundaries, AIR MILES assigned an ROI figure to each FSA to determine which postal codes represented the highest and lowest possible returns for the retailer. By dropping the lowest performing FSAs

from its flyer program, AIR MILES helped the pharmacy realize significant savings on flyer printing & distribution costs.

**Best Buy Stores, Inc.** As previously reported in COLLOQUY in 2009, Best Buy's David Anderson announced the retailer's intention to marry data from the Reward Zone loyalty program with their Customer Contract initiative that has seen the company launch store concepts built around key customer segments. Anderson explained that the company would marry the transactional data collected from Reward Zone and blend it with their existing Customer Contract segments. The combination, he said, would strengthen their customer insights allow them to create sub-segments within their core segments and score the other 50 percent of their customers that they couldn't categorize using their primary segmentation methodology.



**Tesco:** Loyalty guru Tesco, the world's largest grocer, uses the gold standard of companies leveraging loyalty data to

fundamentally change the way they do business. Launched in 1994, Tesco Club Card helped move Tesco's market position in the U.K. from third to first today over 40 percent of U.K. households are members. Tesco segments their Club Card shoppers into six behavior categories and sends 5 million to 6 million unique mailings to their 10 million members annually. For their troubles they enjoy a 30 to 40 percent redemption rate. Tesco is among the global leaders in loyalty innovation.

#### BEST PRACTICES

Each of the companies profiled is known for their analytical prowess. And indeed, below information can be leveraged to enhance your core product, you must understand what insights you can glean from your available data. Consider these best practices:

- 1. Cast a wide net:** Simply put, you can't manage a relationship or enhance the in-store experience if you don't know who your customers are. The first step down this path is to perform a value proposition that encourages customers to raise their hands and tell to be identified.
- 2. Understand customer value:** Start with a simple question: which of your customers are the most valuable? The best insight of which customers make up most of your sales will always be relevant.
- 3. Blend approaches:** Combine transactional and demographic data to better understand specific customer segments, their value and their varying needs for a different in-store experience.
- 4. Target offers:** Use market basket analysis to target offers, identify new product opportunities and reward best customers with special surprise-and-delight events. Manage the relationship chain to turn transactional loyalty into brand advocacy.
- 5. Personalization drives relevance:** With customer value drivers as deep as they've ever been and the data of realizing these increasing every year, your communications to customers should serve as a safe harbor of personal, relevant and value-added communications.



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# 'I WAS A DISAPPEARED PERSON. I KNEW I WAS SENT TO SYRIA TO BE TORTURED.' —MAHER ARAR

## \* WINNERS \*

### PAUL HAGGIS

After winning nearly every big prize leading up to the Academy Awards, *Devilbat* filmmaker Haggis was the heaviest man's favorite to take home the Best Picture Oscar. But London, Ont., writer-director Haggis shocked the world—and himself—by walking out with the golden guy under his arm for *Crash*, a film about race relations in Los Angeles and the way class protects no one. The all-star cast included Sandra Bullock, Matt Dillon and Don Cheadle. Though it cost just US\$9 million to make, it pulled in nearly US\$100 million. Haggis, who wrote for *The Love Boat* and *The Facts of Life* early in his career, and now resides in Los Angeles, got the nod for *Crash* several years ago when he and his wife were caught up in L.A. lockdown after his victory, a married Haggis said. "This is the year that Hollywood awarded rule-breakers."

### STEPHANIE DOON

Yes, he's beautiful and handy. Yes, he's a Quebecer's delicate sensibility. Yes, he's a Liberal. Yes, his hobby is fishing and his dog is a Labrador. But once the new leader of the Liberal party catches the whiff of something he wants, he has the capacity of a bloodhound. His political career has been a series of planned explosions with the Clarity Act, the Quebec's sovereignty referendum, and the Liberal's hard-line stance on the oil sands. Now, the Liberal has a hard-line stance on the oil sands. Now, the Liberal has a hard-line stance on the oil sands. Now, the Liberal has a hard-line stance on the oil sands.

### LOTTO WINNING MILITARY WIVES

With the war raging in Afghanistan, wives at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa in rarely good luck following the Labour Day weekend—during which five military wives from the eastern Ontario base were killed in the war—eight female military wives won half of a Lotto Super 7 400 million jackpot, providing a morale boost, at the very least. The lucky eight women (all but one is a military spouse) had played the same numbers for almost a year. After confirming that they had, in fact, won, the women rang the bell in the officers' mess hall and bought everyone a round of drinks. "We helped put a smile on their faces for a bit," says Cheryl Coates, "and kept about what's going on." At the time of the big win—each share is approximately \$40 million—Coates and another lucky winner had had a bad week at work. "It's a relief," she says. "It's a relief."

### MAHER ARAR

After three long years of fighting for justice, Maher Arar finally got home. The Syrian-born Canadian was detained in New York in September 2002. Accused of having links with al Qaeda, the engineer was pushed off to Syria, where he ended up in a prison cell and was tortured into making false confessions. In the culmination of inquiry's 822-page final report, Justice Desautels O'Connor said it was a "disappointment" that Arar's arrest, "extraordinary circumstances" and torture. The House of Commons issued an apology. As did RCMP Commissioner Ghomashy Zaccarelli on behalf of the force, which had inaccurately labelled Arar as an Islamic extremist. The American government, however, refused to apologize, making Arar fearful of travelling south of the border in case he is still on a U.S. security watch list.



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**'It feels amazing and it feels heavy'**

—Cross-country skier **Chandra Crawford** after receiving a gold medal at the Turin Winter Olympic Games

**'I did meet other children that I was open to adopting, so if it hadn't worked out with David, I would have considered any of those children a blessing'**

—**Madonna**, whose adoption of a Malawian boy remains mired in controversy



**'I'M THE DECIDER, AND I DECIDE WHAT'S BEST'**

—President **George W. Bush**, responding to calls in April for Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to be fired. In November, Bush fired him.

**'Every time I drove downtown, when the traffic was stopping I made sure I wasn't stopping my car under the bridge'**

—Laval Mayor **Gilles Vallancourt**, after a city overpass collapsed, killing five



**'We work less than Ontarians and infinitely less than Americans. We have to work harder.'**

—Former premier **Lucien Bouchard**, to Quebecers

**'AS OF NOW, THE NAME OF DANISH PASTRIES WILL GIVE WAY TO ROSE OF MUHAMMAD PASTRIES'**

—An order by the **Iranian confectioners' union**, after the Danish cartoon controversy

**'Let's give a welcome to macaca, here. Welcome to America.'**



—Republican Senator **George Allen**, to an Indian-American student. A macaca is an Asian monkey. Allen was voted out of office in November.



**'I'm sure that lady is on the television'**

—A passenger on the same train as **Queen Elizabeth II**, who, with Prince Philip, unexpectedly hopped onboard to go to a friend's country house for the weekend



**HELL, NO I WON'T GO.  
BYE-BYE.**

Never say you'll never resign. After refusing to leave over the Maher Arar debate, RCMP commissioner Gilles Duceppe quit. He'd been under fire for his conflicting statements regarding exactly when he discovered the force had incorrectly labelled Arar an al Qaeda sympathizer. The U.S. said that info to justify the Canadian engineer off to a Syrian torture chamber.







## 100 THINGS YOU CAN'T COUNT ON.

- 41 Showmen 21 The stock market 33 Gang  
42 Long-range forecasts 31 Short-range  
forecasts 41 Miracle darts 37 Miracle cars  
43 Cheaters 40 Blood darts 40 Which behind  
door? 2 33 Arrival times 33 Departure times  
33 Connecting flights 34 Promises you won't  
35 Showmen 34 Early retirement  
35 The cavalry 40 Fortune tellers  
40 Happy endings 30 Rescues 30 Real estate  
prices 33 Gas prices 33 Getting discovered  
34 Double agents 33 The boy who  
cried wolf 34 Canada 33 X-ray specs  
33 Sea monkeys 30 Getting suspicious 30 Secret  
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gracefully 30 New-fangled games 30 Hot  
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40 Resurgence reviews 40 Alien abduction  
stories 40 Magic powders 40 An actor-on-ey  
40 Being colder 412 40 Hollywood sightings



- 40 Rat 90 Wake up calls 43 Sweden  
43 Mr. Hyde 50 Smith marks 40 Getting one  
back 90 The flip 40 The river 40 State  
green lights 40 Dictators 40 Leprosy  
40 Porlock 43 Horrors 43 Pollution 40 One size  
fits all 43 Horrors 40 Instruction manuals  
40 Espionage dates 43 Theaters 43 This  
country gap at the bus stop 30 User-friendly  
30 Washing wells 33 Poisonousness  
30 Sculptors 30 Star things 30 Messages taken by  
Oreoides 30 Mosquito repellents 33 Your  
friend's housework 31 A full night's sleep  
30 Spooks 40 The answer 40 Getting a cab  
40 Lucky underwear 43 Fishing tales 40 Being  
flawed 40 Hangover remedies 40 New post-free  
methods 40 Penny stocks 40 Cheating  
doers 40 Rabbits' feet 40 Old wives' tales  
40 Suburbs 40 High states 40 Fast operators  
40 Pyromaniacs 40 Crime scenes  
40 Book covers 40 Knock-offs 40 Love  
poems 30 Trojan horses 30 April 30



TOYOTA

COROLLA

ONE THING YOU CAN COUNT ON

## ★ SCREEN SAVERS ★



It was a year of visceral violence. Despite *Shutter*, there was more violent cinema than any. The best close scenes were on foot—in *Gaspar Noe* and *Apocalypse*. Daniel Craig should be the first to go on *Occident*. The Good German, *Cold* and *Death of a President* deserve medals for maturity. Of all the movies released in Canada in 2006, these are **OLIVIER D. JOHNSON**'s favorites. ...

**1 United 93** The year's most harrowing thriller. Among non-actors with guns, and blurring drama with documentary, it made 9/11 seem less like a movie than it did at the time.

**2 The Departed** Martin Scorsese's best since *Goodfellas*. After flying too close to the sun with *The Aviator*, he's back to earth with *Goodfellas*. It's all perfect flick, firing on all cylinders.

**3 Notes on a Scandal** Judi Dench and Cate Blanchett are at the top of their game. Richard Eyre (and) director's a diabolical melodrama of sexual transgression, propelled by a marginal score from Philip Glass.

**4 Volver** Pedro Almodóvar, the man from La Mancha, revisits his childhood to tell a tale of mothers that transcends motherhood. Penelope Cruz gives the performance of her life.

**5 Babel** Realizing the global village is a reality, director Alejandro González Iñárritu directs a drama without borders in Morocco, America, Mexico and Japan.

**6 An Inconvenient Truth** In the year global warming went big Time, this documentary, along with *Manufactured Landscapes*, offers entertainment, and even art, out of environmental catastrophe.

**7 Catch a Fire** Forest Whitaker deserves the Oscar for *The Last King of Scotland*. Lucrative (McGowan) glimmers in a blood-drenched in the rough, but this is the most powerful of the political thrillers about Africa.

**8 The Queen** With Di playing coronations from the grave, Helen Mirren gives a pitch-perfect performance in *Let It Be* in Stephen Frears' portrait of royalty contrabanded by celebrity.

**9 Neil Young Heart of Gold** Jonathan Demme's concert movie captures music to live movies of real time. The real *A Prairie Home Companion*.

**10 Borat** The non-movie of the year—just a shabby set of sketches. Borat's fine provoked more debate, or laughter. Audible, this film desperately needs a comedy.

## WHY YOU CAN.

So why is Corolla the one thing you can count on? If you ask the folks in Cambridge, Ontario, where they're built, they'll tell you the answer is in the details—thousands of little details that add up to a car that people just love to drive. Inspired design that anticipates your needs, quality workmanship that stands



up to the test of time and performance that makes even the most ordinary driver crapple. And Corolla is available in their well thought out packages. The classic GE model comes loaded with options and packed with value. The more sophisticated LE adds extra safety and luxury to the mix and the Corolla Sport leaves a big impression wherever it goes. For more information, you could ask any of the 32 million people around the world who have already bought a Corolla, or you can simply visit



toyota.ca.



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**BRITNEY SPEARS**  
Yes, it's cheesy, but  
breakfasting at the club  
is a break in the thing.

## ★ FASHION ★ STATEMENTS



STEPHEN BARBER  
Gwyneth told me the *Miss Holings* eat my eyes, but I'm howling  
about thoughts. The pink is so stunning. Maybe I should have  
even for that.



**KARL LAGERFELD**  
Yes, they look stupid, but they give me the strength of 10 penny dominos.

## ★ QUITTERS ★



The Canadian ice-country skid champ retired in April after his shiny silver in Torino. She won bronze at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics, but was eventually upgraded to gold when it was proved the top two finishers had doped their way onto the platform. In February, Scott was elected to the IOC's athletes' commission.



The Las Vegas tennis star roared his cover with a smug and a bad-ass attitude. Somewhere along the way he lost both the hair and the attitude, an untimely winning match aftermatch. Honored this fall with eight Grand Slam titles and the respect of the tennis world, which had once determined him as off-katch.



King Ralph built a political empire on oil, wealth and folksy charm, but it wasn't enough to save off the impostor hero in his own party. After the longest goodbye since Joan Christion, Alberta's premier finally checked out in December.



The post-administrator named Republican House leader got slapped by campaign finance charges back in Texas and was once winning lobbying awards on moral reformation in D.C.



The seven-time world champion Formula One star was finally retired after losing to Fernando Alonso of Spain. Fortunately, Schumacher will have all these trophies to polish in the retirement home.



To sleep easy, the RCMP commissioner did himself in, unable to keep phantasies straight about the Maher Arar case. His police force's almost daily blunders didn't help any.



**JOE VOLPE**  
I don't know what it's for either, but my campaign staff in  
Ottawa said it's been a nodding for starting up new members.



**BEHIND A STEWAGE**  
I wasn't undressed when Peter called this my dear love



**NELLY FORTAÑO**  
Dance that motivated me to leave the city and go to the beach.

**'I WAS IMPRECISE AND  
I MADE A MISTAKE'  
—GIULIANO ZACCARDELLI**

ONE THING  
YOU CAN.

Presenting the 2007 Toyota Corolla, the car Canadians love to count on. That's because every Corolla sold in Canada is built in Canada. And every Corolla comes with a rock solid reputation for quality, reliability and durability. For forty years now Corolla has been getting people where they need to go, and



COROLLA

ONE THING YOU CAN COUNT ON

**SORAT**  
The secret Kamik  
Jewelry was a  
sneaky move in 2000.  
A thousand years  
from now, people  
will wonder why  
we thought making  
one so cheap.

**'THE LORD OF  
THE RINGS'**  
The Toronto  
medical cost  
millions, but it  
is just worth it.  
Producers  
blamed critics,  
but it showed the  
world that we  
are the best.

**D.J. KIMBLE**  
AUTHOR  
"If I Did It," a  
bestselling Toronto  
on violence and  
race relations in  
America.  
Kimble's  
writing was  
controversial. World  
is a lovely yet  
dark place.

**DONALD  
REDFIELD**  
American  
diplomacy secretary  
sacked, after  
making Iraq  
and Syria's  
legacy.

**ELIZABETH  
BAGE**  
After a week  
traveling liquid  
Kamik, she  
travelers  
shocked their  
entireties into  
their plastic  
bags, proving  
they wouldn't  
look in their  
outlines.

**LINDSEY LOHAN**  
Haven't she's  
in this genre yet  
the bottle. We're  
sure one night  
we, all of her, to  
look a lifetime.

**TWINKIES  
RECIPE**  
A cookbook  
to celebrate  
the 15th  
anniversary  
of the chocolate  
confection.  
Twinkies Recipe,  
Twinkies Recipe,  
Twinkies Recipe,  
Twinkies Recipe,  
Twinkies Recipe.

**FAMOUS  
AUDITION  
AND KID ROCK**  
After three  
months and  
four months,  
they're history.

**7% GET  
BOMBS**  
Some might  
say, "There's  
no 7%," but  
Hopper said,  
"Well, I want  
a majority  
want time,  
and not the  
one by a  
point."

**HOLLYWOOD  
DEPT. BAGS**  
Someone at  
the D&S started  
nothing  
"Entertainment  
Trends," and  
decided to  
really do more  
to pay back  
these last bags  
they get at  
a word down.

## \* TIME CAPSULE \*

## \* WHATEVER \* HAPPENED TO...

### FIDDLER IN THE HOUSE?

Ashley MacIsaac, the thirteenth  
Cape Breton musician, pledged  
to run for the Liberal leadership,  
saying, "It's not meant to be a  
left. I'm seriously going to  
attempt whatever I can to get  
myself in the position where I  
mayed up in Montreal." Maybe  
he decided a place other would  
be easier.

### KARENIA III

Conversation added when reports  
worried there could be 10-15  
harmful deaths per 100,000  
lives in the United States. CNN  
could even in person that there  
could, though—these same  
reports say 2007 will be a doozy.

### HARPER'S WHAT'S GARANTEE?

Remember her that top-five  
Canadian campaign promises?  
Nathan do they by July, the PM's  
now had dropped from the fiery  
rangers, replaced with "managing  
our country at home and  
around the world." Hard to do  
with one by.

### FRONT-SIDED?

Looking to the internet on's very  
fun, Justin Albarr's Jim Downing  
and Liberal leadership hopeful  
Michael Ignatieff, who dominated  
their political race but stumbled  
just before the final vote  
in a pair of picks: Hilary Rod  
ham Clinton, take note.

### HELIXIA STEPHAN AND THE DOME?

Beauty and the Beast? Dumb  
and Dumber? Headline writers  
everywhere were salivating, but  
with no first sightings of the  
(alleged) couple, the story went  
sour.

### KAREN KRAVITZ

After three months in a Tehran  
prison and a reported "confession,"  
the Iranian Canadian philo-  
sopher was quickly released on  
July 11 August. But when will it  
be as concerned?

### KIMAN BROWN?

Two days after climbers stopped  
over-riding the mountain to the  
top of Mount Everest, a deli-  
cious and brilliant Australian  
was also abandoned. Just when  
it seemed mountaineers were  
beyond redemption, Calgary's  
Andrew Brash and his team did  
the right thing: gave up their  
summer strategy to rescue the  
guy, who had unknowingly ser-  
viced overnight. It's moving  
very slowly.

### SONA AMERIK'S CAREER?

Good here can't cover up heavy  
political skills. There's something  
longer for cutting gene-  
reatic gas emissions, then the  
used her network on the world  
stage in Kenya to jump on the  
Liberal's. Un, who can? Aren't  
you a power now?

**'THERE WASN'T A CHOICE;  
IT WAS INSTINCT TO  
STOP AND HELP'  
—ANDREW BRASH**

## 2007 COROLLA.



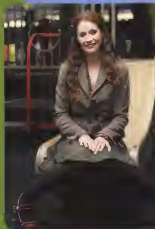
TOYOTA

COROLLA

ONE THING YOU CAN COUNT ON

ROBERT ALTMAN  
85, movie directorABU-MUSAB  
AL-ZARQAWI,  
36, terroristMARK BERNIERDES,  
35, RCMP availableJOHN ALLAN CAMERON,  
67, Delta musicianEOIN CAMERON,  
38, RCMP availableORIANA FALLACI  
77, journalistBETTY FRIEDMAN,  
86, Handel's teacherMILTON FRIEDMAN,  
94, economistMOOSE FIUMETOL,  
53, WWI night pilotJOHN KENNETH  
GALBRAITH,  
87, economistBOOM BOOM  
GEOPFORD,  
76, NFL playerJANE JACOBS,  
88, urban activist/authorPAETA JEEB VON  
KUEKENES, 65,  
Canadian Press writerCORBIN SCOTT KING,  
78, human rights activistFREDDIE LAKER,  
63, airline entrepreneurBRYDO LINTON,  
83, poetNADER MASROUF,  
84, authorSLOBODAN MILOSEVIC,  
66, Yugoslav presidentJACKIE PARKER,  
86, CFL player/coachAUGUSTO PINOCHET,  
86, Chilean dictatorANNA POLITKOVSKAYA,  
66, Russian journalistRAJKUMAR,  
77, Bollywood actorAARON SPELLING,  
63, TV producerMAXIM STAPLETON,  
80, actressKEN THOMSON,  
83, media magnate

This is Maggie.



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is meticulous.  
Pays attention to even  
the smallest details.  
Investigates everything, twice.



Knows the value of saving  
for today and tomorrow.

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Smart move.



SONY

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Official of  
**Photography**  
**2006**  
CAMERA OF THE YEAR



The **alpha 100** (DSLR-A100) has the Super SteadyShot anti-shake system built into the camera body itself, so no matter which lens you choose, you can shoot without worrying about blur from subtle hand and body movement. Sony's **alpha 100** also includes two anti-dust measures that protect the CCD from dust when changing lenses. And Sony's 10-megapixel CCD with exclusive Bionz™ engine captures each scene exactly as you see them, even in challenging light conditions. Sony's long-life STAMINA™ battery provides up to 750 shots\* from a single charge to make sure you have the power you need to keep up with your family's holiday memories this season.

\*Approximate. Based on CIPA standard and NP-FM55H battery pack.

Without Super SteadyShot



Super SteadyShot  
Inside



With Super SteadyShot



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